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# MACLEAN'S



MAY 12th 2008

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MILEY CYRUS is 15 years old, and that's too young to be newsworthy in adult magazines

## A plea for decency in the age of celebrity

For readers who don't spend a lot of time with *Genie* girls, meet us, *Miley Cyrus* as *Miley Stewart*, a natural girl trying to fit in at high school while facing all the typical teenage angst, from crushes to clothes. At night, however, she becomes *Hannah Montana*, a famous singing star adored by millions. Only fiercely and close friends know her secret.

Miley thus leads the double life of dreams for young girls. She has fame and its trappings when she wants it—but not at the expense of an ordinary home life. "You get the best of both worlds," she sings of herself in the title song.

For parents of teenage girls who have watched the dubious career arcs of *Twelve Years a Slave* or *Lindsay Lohan*, *Hannah Montana* is a safe haven, assurance for its message that we are adults as we are young. That the show is part of the Walt Disney empire, a company so averse to its wholesome image that it only recently let male employees wear more t-shirts at its theme parks, provides further comfort. All of which makes the "nude Miley" scandal so disappointing.

Celebrity photographer Annie Leibovitz shot Miley for the June issue of *Vanity Fair*. The most striking picture has the 15-year-old naked to the waist with a satin sheet tucked under her arm and chest. Her disheveled hair and knowing smile suggests she is not just willing to be naked in *That* but photo-

graphs a normalized view of the untold story is unacceptable. So much for Miley the role model.

After the other year ago, we published a cover story entitled "Why do we dress our daughter like a slut?" It was based on an interview with the author Colla Averbach, who discussed the early sexualization of young girls and their excessive provocative wardrobe. According to Averbach, parents must shoulder much of the responsibility for refusing to set standards for behavior and appearance. Society bears the rest. So when to blame for a new breed of "Miley" role model?

Both Miley's parents attended the photo shoot. And Leibovitz was not exactly an unknown quantity to Disney. She's famous for her controversial nudes, including Demi Moore pregnant and Whoopi Goldberg in a bathtub full of milk. *Vanity Fair* also knew what it was getting into when it asked Miley if she was "nude" about posing naked. The exploitation of Miley was, depressingly, a group effort.

If there is an silver lining, it's in the reaction—possible shock from the public and fans, apologies from Miley and Leibovitz, signed outrage from Disney, defensive fire from *Vanity Fair*—which suggests our age of sex and celebrity has not entirely killed all sense of decency. After generations of watching children pushed prematurely into adulthood, people may finally be pulling back. *Vanity Fair* created a moral border with its picture. There's still time to close that border. ■

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1. How do you remove more plaque?
2. How do you optimize brushing pressure?
3. How do you reduce gingivitis?
4. How long should you brush?
5. When should you replace your brush head?
6. When should you shift quadrants?
7. What's a quadrant?

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#### A HAVEN FOR LOSERS

THESE Malcolm Gladwell and Adam Gopnik moved what might be the most answer to the question, is Canada a nation (or not)? (Malcolm Gladwell vs. Adam Gopnik, *Canadian nation or not?* The *Maclean's* Debate, April 14.) Among the odd millionaires from Hong Kong, Britain or the Arab world, most of those who came to this country were losers of a sort. Anyone who dared cross the Atlantic

Perhaps the famous and dandy-eyed twins Kings of Gladwell and Gopnik are enlightened by the fact that they don't actually live here. Thankfully, Andrew Coyne administered a bracing dose of cold reality as a chair *Joe Offshore*, Victoria

#### EMILY CARR, AUTHOR

ANOTHER NEW biography of Emily Carr ("Learning to see ourselves," *History*, April 28). Our hero in British Columbia we are always happy when somebody in the east takes notice of our Emily. So with anticipation I read the introduction by Louise George and the essays from the new Penguin book *Emily Carr*. It surprised me that there was no mention of Emily's own collection of short stories, *Tit and Tare* (The Last Stories of Emily Carr, published a few weeks ago by TouchWood Press here in Victoria). All the stories in that new book were written by Emily while she was recovering from a stroke late in her life and they had been languishing in the B.C. archives for over 50 years.



GLADWELL AND GOPNIK missed the point: we're losers

in the 17th century had to be pretty badly off before they came. The prize was free land, free rooming and free hunting and fishing, and as time wore on, a free country.

Some of my own forebears came from Liverpool in 1633 and Massachusetts Bay in 1635. Their descendants were losers in the New England colonies and came to Upper Canada in 1797 in *Loyalists*—losers again. And so it was too, from Yorkshire in 1825 and Scotland in 1836. And they all have been losers looking for a better life, but their descendants, including us, are among the most fortunate for our ancestors coming to Canada. There were fish in the waters and game in the hills and rich acres that put bread and milk on the table for children who became taller and stronger than their forebears. There was and is a degree of generosity and compassion in helping neighbours, and common sense in dealing with the world.

If Quebec in its pride and passion does not look beyond its borders, the rest of Canada more than makes up for it. But Quebec's pride and passion has also probably steered us away from more hopelessness than we know. We are a people more defined by the and let live than by disease or danger. And we are still a haven for losers whose children, however, will be among our strongest and free, and our winners.

Maurice A. Rhodes, Halifax, N.S.

Today Emily may be known more for her paintings, but, at the time of her death in 1945, she was better known for her writings. She won the Governor General's Award for Literature for her first book in 1941. I would think that anyone interested in reading about Emily would want to know that something new by her own hand had come to light. *Gordon Sweeney, Victoria*

#### IN PASSING

Yoram Hazony, an Israeli commander, spy master and businessman. In 1947 he captained the *Kasabka*, the ship that illegally carried 4,000 Holocaust survivors to Palestine in a daring operation that helped push the UN to vote for the establishment of Israel. He was portrayed by Paul Newman in the 1960 film *Kasabka*, based on Leon Uris's novel.

Dr. William Stewart, M.D., pediatrician and paleontologist. As U.S. surgeon general in the 1960s administration of Lyndon B. Johnson, he was responsible for putting the first health warning labels on cigarette packages and pushing through the integration of the U.S. Public Health Service and some southern hospitals.

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### WEB EXCLUSIVES

#### The Commons

Asen Wherry's latest recap of a quarter period—direct from the heights of the House of Commons press gallery.

#### Megapundit

There's only one way to know what every columnar is in the country is saying—check in with Chris Selley's daily roundup.

### EDUCATION

#### Scholarship Finder

Search over 10,000 scholarships in Maclean's database.



Canada's leading voices comment on the major stories as we cover them.

### LATEST COMMENTS

#### Tarok Fatah

"If Israel ends its occupation of Palestinian territories and permits the creation of a sovereign Palestine, of course it is a democratic country with a Jewish character."

### BLOG CENTRAL

#### Paul Wells

Our celebrated columnist is coming thing up in the nation's capital.

#### Andrew Coyne

Our national editor has a contrarian take on politics and public policy.

#### Inside the Queensway

Katy O'Malley has the inside story on all the latest happenings on and off the Hill.

### TOP STORIES THIS WEEK

#### When stuntmen were real men

Maclean's has collected 100 clips of the most jaw-dropping Hollywood stunts caught on tape.

#### Blog wars

When political goals go to war for their party's lot, the question posed—kindergarten—on the Internet.

#### Have or have-not?

In the wake of Daxton McGuire and Jim Flaherty's wife of words, does the title of Ontario's wealthiest man take a closer look to see who has their numbers straight?

#### Deux maudits anglais

Martin Paloucek and Philippe Gauthier dissect and discuss the Fifth and Sixty from Quebec in their new daily blog.



7 DAYS

## A WEEK IN THE LIFE OF REV. JEREMIAH WRIGHT

Unwilling to clean up the role of his high-profile pastor, Barack Obama's priest engaged Friday in a PBS interview on his "Godless America" sermon, then shared his ideas on "black religious tradition" with the NAACP in Detroit. On Monday, in an appearance at the National Press Club in Washington, he reiterated suggestions that the U.S. government intended the HIV virus to use against minorities. Obama refused that Rev. Wright "doesn't speak for me."

### Good news

#### Bear necessities

Like the environment itself, the fate of the polar bear is contested. So it was gratifying this week to see Ottawa unveil a simple-minded political gesture where the bears can consent. A federal committee ruled that the bears need to be carefully managed, but are not endangered. Some bear populations are in decline, but others are stable or increasing. This wasn't well-received by conservation groups, which have long argued the bear is on the fast track to extinction due to climate change.

But the ruling was made using all the best available science—science that has been too often ignored. The polar bear is a national icon that ought to be protected, not used as a pawn in the global warming debate.

#### Snack factor

It's never a good idea to get between a prepubescent and her cravings, and now science has provided proof. Granted, some cravings aren't such a good idea. British scientists found that some women report such urges as chocolate, popcorn, meat, and fried eggs with more ease. But the number was striking, by far, for chocolate. Good thing, since a recent Yale University study found that a chemical in chocolate called theobromine could help prevent pre-eclampsia, a dangerous condition which causes blood pressure to spike.

### Long hot summer

If anyone needed a reminder of how close peace and security remain in Afghanistan, this week's unreported assassination of President Hamid Karzai should do it. The bomb attack, which killed Karzai, was carried out in the heart of Kabul, during a parade celebrating the defeat of Soviet forces, and was supposed to showcase the growing strength of the country's military. In the south, 2,100 U.S. Marines have begun deployment in Helmand province, despite contradicting the insurgent Taliban. The war is far from over.

#### More tears in his beer

Roger Clemens became famous for his barbs, not his good judgment. However, the seven-time Cy Young winner's descent into depression's grip had far even he did have fans to overlook. But, the pitcher was accused of sexual advances to a 17-year-old girl. Now, the pitcher is accused of sexual advances to a 17-year-old girl. Now, the pitcher is accused of sexual advances to a 17-year-old girl.

#### Risky business

Calvin Ayre, the Saskatchewan born founder of Raging.com, earned his fortune by putting online gamblers from their money. Now, he's giving away Ayre's money. Ayre has announced his retirement from Raging.com to focus on his charitable foundation that will offer lots of opportunities to hang out with his women.

### The devil you know

Ontario's sex offender registry is here to stay. In a unanimous judgment released this week, the province's highest court ruled that although the registry might limit the rights of citizens and, in some cases, the rights of rapists and pedophiles, such measures were necessary to protect the public. The court ruled that the registry was a necessary part of the justice system.

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### Bad news

#### Clean skin, at least

Don't expect medical schools to solve our doctor shortage. According to a nationwide survey of physicians-in-training, the next generation doesn't plan to work as hard as their predecessors. They want to work less, live better, and have a better work-life balance. This is a problem for the health care system, which is facing a shortage of doctors. The solution is to attract more students to the profession, but that's a long-term goal.

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## Couple gives RV to homeless man evicted from his tree house

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## 'I'd much rather spank than to scream at a child in anger and let things come out of my mouth that never go away'

ROSE ROCK TALKS TO KATE FILLION ABOUT PARENTING TO KIDS AND 17 FOSTER CHILDREN, MORALS, THE SOUTH, AND WHO HER FUNNIEST CHILD IS

**Q** You ran a daycare and preschool for years, you host a local radio show on Myrtle Beach, S.C., *The Moon Show*, and now you're writing a parenting book, *Moms Rock's Rules*. It's difficult to be relaxed as "Chris Rock's mom?"

**A** When people say, "You're Chris Rock's mother," I say, "No, Chris Rock is a child. I've been Rock's mom before there was a Chris Rock. I know it's opened doors for me to help people, being his mother. It's allowed me as a platform, and that's good, but I started speaking for children long before people at the Wal-Mart started saying, "Oh, there's Chris Rock's mom!"

**Q** Why do a show, growing up?

**A** He was, but I never saw him onstage. I thought he would probably be a writer. He was funny, yes, but the kind of funny where you sit on the stoop and say, "You know, he is so big you could shoot movies on it."

**Q** Do you sometimes watch him today and think, "It's all not so funny?"

**A** No, because everything he says has such a message to it. The only thing that bothers me sometimes is the language. He'll tell a joke and I'll be ready to go through the filter. The truth is, my daughter Andi is a drop-dead funny, to the point where I was thinking she should be a comedian, but she's at college now and she wants to be a sports announcer.

**Q** You and your husband raised 17 kids

along with 17 foster children. Why did you decide to foster?

**A** I always say, "Why not?" We would watch movies in the middle of the night. You'd pick up the paper, especially in the late '60s and early '70s, and you'd see children being abandoned, being abused, and at school, I'd see children who weren't being cared for. It really shook me up. My husband and I just looked at each other one night and said, "You know, we should say, 'They should keep that child.' We're saying this when we could be doing it."

**Q** It's a foster parent, yes, and people often say, "Oh, I could never do that because I could never give them up." As though it's a one-way ticket to jail.

**A** I know. Always answer, "I'd rather have them for a day and still have them than one good day and not have given it to them if I could." Fostering was also very good for my own kids. It made them realize how blessed they were, and it made them more grown. When you live with a child that is more or less hugged, and you see how that child reacts when they're hugged, it's very different than seeing it on TV. When you see a child going through the trash after dinner because they think they're not going to get fed tomorrow, you start to empathize and have real feelings.

**Q** What's the key to raising so many kids at once?

**A** A lot of rules, and structure. My kids had things to do from the minute they came

home from school. They cleaned, they cleaned the bathroom, they washed dishes, they did the homework, they vacuumed.

**Q** So Chris Rock cleans the toilet?

**A** We have so many children here who live in trailer parks, where the parents get on a bus at five in the morning to go to work in big towns, then come home at sunset or eight in the evening.

**Q** White and black parents?

**A** Basically black. I've never seen a white person on a bus, come to think of it, going to these service jobs. We have a whole subculture here, I don't even really want to believe it, but in some areas there are no older people, just these young, single mothers raising children. I'm so perplexed when I see a 25-year-old with three children, and her grandmother isn't even 30. That was unheard of any day. There's been a breakdown of the family, no morals, no value system. Now, if a 25-year-old gets pregnant, the mother throws a baby that's really my thing now—I tell kids, "Don't be down with anything you don't want in your life forever." You only create a chain of events that is going to follow you forever, no matter how little life changes. The rest of that whole hope is a child who belongs to nobody.

**Q** Now grow up to what you said the Joe Cruminals, that raised your kids in Brooklyn. Now you're back out. How different is it?

**A** The most things change, the more they stay the same. It's not just New York anymore, it's very southern now. I grew up very, very poor, but I had a mother and father who loved me, who let me know early on that I was a son, South Carolina, did not define me and my life was going to end there. I had a lot to offer. Now, we're raising a generation of black children who don't have a dad as to who they are. When I talk to a generation across the other day to talk to kids, it was to observe, no one tells them their history. No one tells them whose shoulders they stand on, so they grow up looking like that. If you say something about the Little Rock Nine, they think you're talking about a top group. You know what? All parents do that, but blacks in particular. We make the schools to teach everything that the school is not responsible for telling your kids who they are.

**Q** So what's wrong with kids today?

**A** We have so many children here who live in trailer parks, where the parents get on a bus at five in the morning to go to work in big towns, then come home at sunset or eight in the evening.

**Q** What's the key to raising so many kids at once?

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home from school. They cleaned, they cleaned the bathroom, they washed dishes, they did the homework, they vacuumed.

**Q** So what's wrong with kids today?

**A** We have so many children here who live in trailer parks, where the parents get on a bus at five in the morning to go to work in big towns, then come home at sunset or eight in the evening.

**Q** White and black parents?

**A** Basically black. I've never seen a white person on a bus, come to think of it, going to these service jobs. We have a whole subculture here, I don't even really want to believe it, but in some areas there are no older people, just these young, single mothers raising children. I'm so perplexed when I see a 25-year-old with three children, and her grandmother isn't even 30. That was unheard of any day. There's been a breakdown of the family, no morals, no value system. Now, if a 25-year-old gets pregnant, the mother throws a baby that's really my thing now—I tell kids, "Don't be down with anything you don't want in your life forever." You only create a chain of events that is going to follow you forever, no matter how little life changes. The rest of that whole hope is a child who belongs to nobody.

**Q** Now grow up to what you said the Joe Cruminals, that raised your kids in Brooklyn. Now you're back out. How different is it?

**A** The most things change, the more they stay the same. It's not just New York anymore, it's very southern now. I grew up very, very poor, but I had a mother and father who loved me, who let me know early on that I was a son, South Carolina, did not define me and my life was going to end there. I had a lot to offer. Now, we're raising a generation of black children who don't have a dad as to who they are. When I talk to a generation across the other day to talk to kids, it was to observe, no one tells them their history. No one tells them whose shoulders they stand on, so they grow up looking like that. If you say something about the Little Rock Nine, they think you're talking about a top group. You know what? All parents do that, but blacks in particular. We make the schools to teach everything that the school is not responsible for telling your kids who they are.

**Q** So what's wrong with kids today?

**A** We have so many children here who live in trailer parks, where the parents get on a bus at five in the morning to go to work in big towns, then come home at sunset or eight in the evening.

**Q** What's the key to raising so many kids at once?

**A** A lot of rules, and structure. My kids had things to do from the minute they came

home from school. They cleaned, they cleaned the bathroom, they washed dishes, they did the homework, they vacuumed.

**Q** So what's wrong with kids today?

**A** We have so many children here who live in trailer parks, where the parents get on a bus at five in the morning to go to work in big towns, then come home at sunset or eight in the evening.

**Q** What did you do before you became a comedian?

**A** I started cleaning where folks' houses at 11 and did it all through high school to earn money just to survive, to buy school clothes and so on. It's horrible to be working in a house and to be fed on the porch because they feel you're not good enough to sit at their table. You're good enough to take care of their children, but you're not as where they sit. I think about it now, I get really, really angry about things that bring up money fast faster, then you go in the store and you're told that you can't say anything at all. We couldn't go in the department and sit at the counter to buy a new dress. You had to wait at the street, in 10-dollar heat, and it would not allow you. You'd wait by and see all the white kids at the counter, laughing and having a good time.

**Q** Today, you must see people you remember as racism in your childhood. Do you think time has changed that?

**A** No! I would never be that ignorant. I think circumstances have changed. One thing that happened in the South, especially this part of the South, at this education was the only thing our parents knew to push. Most people would say, "Now we're told to get their kids into college." The white people do seem very intelligent, because they didn't need an education to be big. Who else, it's even businesses. But after the civil rights movement, when people came from the north and started taking over companies, they were looking for respect. And the black women, and govt. had college degrees, and that's what changed the South.

**Q** How you say it? It's not changed all that much. Are you saying Chris Rock's father was a racist? Because you were a foster daughter went into one last thing, they didn't care for you, now she's a foster mom?

**A** Yes. And Andi and I were raised in the middle of the restaurant, so you couldn't sit on it. After more than 20 minutes with no rest, I looked right at the owners, and she looked at me again in the face, then turned around. That's what really got me.

**Q** What was your mother's name was racist, rather than just terrible racist?

**A** When the only two blacks sitting there, and people who came in after us had their friends were actually sitting. I went through the channels I was supposed to, and this is why I say the South is still the South. I went to the NAACP, and they never called back. I went to the human affairs commission in Columbia and so on over and over back to me. Then I talked about the incident on my radio show, and we started getting calls, and calls and more calls from people saying, "The same thing happened to us, but we get up

and left." They'd named different restaurants, but mostly Cracker Barrel. Now, I have been in several restaurants, waited 45 minutes, and just got up and left with heart fatigue, feeling they're making it very obvious they don't want to serve me. I've been made to feel invisible so many times in my life, and then day I just said, no.

**Q** Your kids are all successful. You've got actors and comedians, a producer, a social worker and a couple of teachers. Are you living it up in a fancy house now?

**A** No. People come here all the time and are like, "This is where you live!" I don't know what they expect, but I'm comfortable. I don't have anything in my house that I can't put my foot on.

**Q** Through Chris, have you met any fam



**Chris can clean a mean toilet. He can't wash dishes well, but he can iron. That was what was expected.'**

**Q** Now people you're always wanted to meet?

**A** Well, Barbara Streisand. She was nice. But I don't get excited about stuff like that. When Chris played the Academy Awards, I had almost planned not to go, but other people were so excited they got me into it. **Q** How young is Chris in 17? Are you looking forward to an empty nest?

**A** I'm dreading it. I've had kids in house for 42 years. There's not one thing I'm looking forward to doing when they're all gone, except he's married. ■







WHEN PEARSON SPEAKS in the House of Commons, politicians stop heckling to listen, then both sides join in the applause

# THE LAST DECENT MAN IN OTTAWA

**MP Glen Pearson is a rarity: a quiet, respectful politician**

**BY AARON WILKENT** • He had ruled the immigration system about a change in policy and she had responded by questioning his competence in the welfare of children, and all she has done since in Ottawa could be was groan and shake her head. Watching from the gallery, little more than eight feet above the speaker's head, was Glen Pearson's 13th, sixth and seventh children, each adopted and brought to Canada from the disaster of Darfur.

Pearson, the calm-faced Liberal MP who describes himself as "an idealist without illusions," sat quietly through the rest of question period, as in his work. When the daily string of accusations was through, he rounded up his wife and three children and took them to meet the Prime Minister. Never mind the ideological and political differences, never mind that one of Stephen Harper's lieutenants had just impugned his credibility in front of his children, Pearson wanted them to meet their duty-elected leader. Wanted them to know there was a living, breathing human being, an individual worthy of respect, behind it all.

"It's very, very important people understand this. I am non-partisan," he said days earlier, sitting in his West Block office. "You Liberals? It's because I believe in the vision of the Liberals as the most compassionate. But I am non-partisan in the way that I believe the best way to accomplish it is to win elections, not lose them." This is easy to say. And in this town people say all sorts of things for all sorts of self-aggrandizing reasons. But if it is merely by service, it is, at the very least, hard to quibble with the principle to which it is paid.

Glen Pearson arrived in Ottawa, winner of a November 2006by-election, with an impressive resume. A veteran firefighter, director of the London food bank and aid worker in Africa, he and his wife were adoptive parents of a Sudanese girl orphaned by war (Pearson has four children from a previous marriage and when a war-displaced 10-year-old daughter and a brother and sister in Africa, they too were brought to Canada). Days after his election, he was asked to introduce Stephen Harper at the Liberal convention in Montreal—his first time in the national spotlight, and though he spoke too long and left too little room for the future leader to finish his own remarks, Pearson was well received nonetheless.

Indeed, Pearson seemed, at first blush, a political dream come to life. Nearly he directed

any interest in such states. Instead, on the first anniversary of his election, he was greeted by the headline under the headline, "MP shocked by House of Commons"—Pearson portrayed as nearly heartbroken by the savage partisanship of Canada's 39th Parliament, and perhaps reluctant to seek a second term. "In some senses it's the better," he concedes now, "but I don't play well when it's mean. And I find a fair bit of meanness here. I probably should be tougher than I am after being a firefighter for 30 years."

If life has improved in the intervening months, it is only because Pearson and Ottawa have begun to come each other out. The silence when Pearson rises in the House to address aid for Africa is almost unbreathing. Cabinet members, with the obvious exception of Diane Finley, are positively deferential in response. "I think they're all at least," he says of his peers, "that Glen is different."

Pearson, meanwhile, has arrived at his own rules of engagement. Asked to join his party's question period assault on the Chark Cadman affair, he declined. When the ethics committee to which he belongs decided to investigate the dealings of Bruce Maloney, he voluntarily stepped aside. "It's caused some difficulties for me within the party," he admits.

To Pearson's right each day sits Todd Rait-



**KD. Now available in whole wheat.**

The one-of-a-kind cheesy taste that kids love now comes in whole wheat too! Made with 100% whole wheat, it's a source of fibre you'll reach for when they say, "Gotta be KD."





## Mosquito alarms deter pesky kids

**BY KATE LUNAN** • Adults have a new way to ward off pesky kids. Created by a British inventor in 2005, the Mosquito alarm—a “sonar deterrent” that emits a high-pitched sound only those aged 12 to 25 can hear—is now popping up across Canada. Its purpose? To deter “unwanted gatherings of youths,” according to Vancouver’s Morning Sound Technologies Inc., which began marketing the device in North America in October. About 180 Mosquito alarms are in use at Canadian schools, stores and street corners (mostly in British Columbia), and the number is quickly



**GETTING AN EARFUL:** The alarm has sold well, especially in B.C.

growing. “With weather warming up, ‘kids are starting to cause trouble,’” says Morning Sound president Mike Gibson, who expects business to boom over summer months.

The M’s commercial success starts in one happy corner—the almost 100,000 in Western Canada where the alarms installed, and they might buy more this summer. Gibson says he’s “expecting big things” from Ontario and Quebec. “Theory of mind is not really developed in the Mosquito alarm in a way to cause trouble, while adults now turn it off the table, young Montrealers might have to contend with their wayward Gibson’s local dealer has fiddled: inquiries from stores, schools, and even hockey rinks in the area.

Plus all of the Mosquito alarms (which cost about \$1,400 apiece) it works like this: The B.C. city of Castlegar installed four of them at a downtown street corner prior to New Year’s Eve this year, but, like other “gangs-on” have all but ended, says city official Chris Cochran. But it’s had its detractors, and in the M’s heyday, the children’s sonar was installed in England (where about 3,500 are installed), who says the device “deters young people” and “creates a dangerous divide between young and old.” Gibson insists the alarm is safe and effective, and says he’s not hearing any complaints from his customers. ■

## Nuclear bad guys—Iran and Canada?

**BY NICHOLAS KÖHLER** • The slither of uranium enrichment, which can be used either to power a reactor or blow up a frightful explosion, is what you pass on as secrets, who do you cut off? Just in case, the U.S., France and the Netherlands among them, are permitted to enrich uranium today—and Canada wants in. Trouble is, so does Iran, which says it wants to enrich uranium as a defense to have to depend on outside sources to fuel its first nuclear power plant, slated to begin operation this fall. Given the regime’s murky behavior could just as easily be proper as it is to be a weapon.

Rather than rely on a complex set of rules to govern the matter, the U.S. in 2004 passed for a law, renewed annually by the G-8, on new nations acquiring the capability. That made Canada—and specifically Saskatchewan, which produces almost a third of the world’s uranium and wants to become, at Prime Minister’s Will says, a “continental energy giant”—a little peeved. “We’re envisioning enriching the uranium mined in its province at home, before dispatching it to customers the world over.

So it was no surprise last week when reports out of a Vienna non-proliferation meeting described Canada as chief negotiator among countries trying to get the U.S. to soften its line. Early signs indicate the U.S. may soon agree to drop its insistence on a ban in favor of a rules-based approach to approving new contracts. That translates



**PRESIDENT Ahmadinejad of Iran, Premier Manmohan Singh of India.**

Well, who were statelets earlier this year to let U.S. bigwig know their passion through in with personal belief. “We’re moving on and moving up,” he says. “What are we doing on our way to North Korea and Iran?” Still, the worry is that Iran could become the beneficiary of Canadian efforts. Nor is it clear who we would sell our uranium to. The real issue is both with Congress. Still, if a nuclear enrichment really is coming, it’s better to be on the right hand than the left. ■

## Thugs grab driver. He gets sued.

**BY MICHAEL FRINGOLANTI** • Five years ago, after a long night of drinking in Toronto’s bar, Jeremy Tooleen climbed into his 2001 Chevy Blazer for the short drive home. A friend, friend, friend, friend, was beside him in the front passenger seat. What happened next is now the subject of one of the most bizarre lawsuits in recent memory.

At 1:40 a.m., as Tooleen began driving away, two men approached his door and started punching him through the driver-side window. One of them grabbed the wheel, sending his Blazer into a screeching “lookout” to speed away, but the men caught up



**JURY’S OUT:** Should drivers have rolled up windows between jobs?

to the car and kept on swinging. By the time the blazer was stopped, Tooleen’s truck had crashed into a second vehicle.

Both men pled guilty to assault in a Toronto court, and so far as Tooleen was concerned, the ordeal was over. But in May 2009—two full years after the incident—the woman in the passenger seat filed her own court action, demanding \$100,000 for filing her “personal and sexual” injuries the accident that night. But Tooleen didn’t sue the thugs who punched Tooleen, she said Tooleen.

She alleges that her former friend (they’re not buddies anymore, for obvious reasons) “failed to keep a proper lookout” and “failed to slow down or stop his motor vehicle when he could reasonably and safely have done so.” Tooleen even suggests that Tooleen’s blame for the crash because he didn’t think to roll up his window in between jobs to the face.

Not surprisingly, Tooleen’s lawyer tried to have the case tossed out of court. But last week, a judge decided there is just enough evidence to warrant a trial. “There is a live issue as to whether the defendant was in any way responsible for the collisions—perhaps by having lost control of the vehicle, or perhaps by failing to close his window and thereby facilitating the second attack,” wrote Justice Robson Gauthier. “To conclude that the defendant was not negligent in some respect.” A jury will have to decide that. ■



## THE GAMES: FOREIGNERS NOT WELCOME

### Anti-Western anger and new restrictions don’t bode well for the Olympics

**BY ERIN CONWAY SMITH** • To celebrate the 100-day countdown to the Olympics this week, Beijing hand-picked the 100 hottest Chinese pop stars to sing on one to the vision that will soon flood this city, an explosion of goodwill from a house proud capital about to open its arms to the world. The song is a gliding melody along called Welcome to Beijing, and if you don’t speak Chinese, you won’t understand what they’re telling you. But no matter—it’ll be sung

all across China, according to a state tele vision report. Welcome to Beijing not only reflects the warmth of the Chinese people, but also shows that Beijing is confident and ready to host the Beijing Olympics. That’s the official mission for tourists and athletes planning to attend the Games, as well as for the home crowd, and it’s true that preparations for the big event this August are well in hand. The new, diamond-shaped airport has opened, the Olympic “bird’s nest” national stadium is ready, and pre-Olympic competitions to test the facility are under way, with the public invited to come “enjoy the splendor of the bird’s nest” this week at the 100-day celebrations.

But other aspects of Beijing’s Olympic preparations reveal a nervous host that is becoming increasingly inhospitable to for-

eigners. The government is more paranoid than usual about unrest on home turf, after the springing of Tibetan in March, followed by chaotic pro-Tibet protests in London and Paris during the Olympic torch relay. As a rule, major events in Beijing are always preceded by a security crackdown. The result is that, at a time when the world is invited to Beijing, the government has imposed visa regulations making it more difficult for foreigners—including tourists—to get into the country. Bars are being raided and music concerts and other cultural events cancelled because of pre-Olympic “security concerns.” Soon, the capital’s millions of migrant workers and students will be forced out, and the streets swept clean of potential troublemakers—and chaos. “Olympics are usually huge parties,” notes one American expert in Beijing. “This one is going to be pretty gray.”

At the same time as the security crackdown in Beijing is making many foreigners feel

knowers there has been an outpouring of xenophobia and naturessence aimed at the West, fueled by Chinese who feel their country is under attack by Westerners bent on robbing their treatment of international glory. Many Chinese are furious about the pro-Tibetan protesters' "aggression" not to divide the north and south, as far as China is concerned—who can berate the country as the Olympic torch set out on its controversial "journey of harmony" around the world. There has been a string tide of anger on the Internet and in state media, petitions against Western media outlets, long dissertations on why Tibet has always been a part of China.

prisoners Tobias for sale." "I Heart China" and "I Heart China More Than Ever"; "I Heart China" added next to MSN Messenger nicknames, and YouTube music videos that warn, "Don't be too CNN"—a popular net-

**'Olympics are usually huge parties,' said one American expat of the crackdown. 'This one is going to be pretty grim.'**

spread online that Carmelair shareholder LAMH Group had given money to the Dalai Lama, who Chino says orchestrated the protests in Tibet and along the march route. (LAMH has strongly denied the allegations.)

Demonstrations with flags and banners, including one calling Joan of Arc a "prostitute" and Napoleon a "pervert," have protested outside Carrefour supermarkets in many Chinese cities. An American volunteer teacher—mistaken as being French—was confronted last week by a crowd of angry demonstrators outside a Carrefour store in the southern city of Zhushou. A crowd surrounded his taxi, chanting and protesting, until police

who shielded the search from the protesters in Paris, was known as the "angel in the wheelchair" until the spike ran against the Carrefour boycotts and the public burning last June. Jin Jing is built of Spengler on behalf of Carrefour. I think she's a traitor," and one online commentator "Tombstone Jin Jing. I currently suggest you to shut your mouth," said another. "You've done your share already."

Don't go around making impossible remarks. First she's missing a leg, now she's missing a brain."

It's all something the Chinese government is in part responsible for. Six weeks after the riots in the Tibetan capital of Lhasa and other areas, China's state media

In foreign influence in China had roots in Beijing's foreign legation quarter, killing more than 240 people. In the 1940s, Chinese nationalists protested Japan's invasion of their country by boycotting and even burning Japanese goods. There have been earlier boycotts and anti-foreigner protests condoned by government, such as in 2005 over a re-

A harbinger of the current problems was a Shanghai concert by the singer Björk in early March—only weeks before protests broke out in China—where she shouted “Tibet, Tibet!” at the end of a government-unapproved song. *Denkmal* Independence: The Chinese Ministry of Culture declared that this曲调 “broke Chinese law and

had been submitted, but Connors still had to play those songs, never mind that his band didn't have the songs for them.

Numerous cultural events in Beijing involving foreigners have been cancelled this spring in the aftermath of "gay Olympic protests." From a weekend street festival in a European Union event that was to celebrate cultural ties with China and promote cultural understanding. That latter cause floundered, on short notice, came the same week Beijing announced it will hold its own government-approved "Olympic cultural festival" as part of celebrations in August, an event that is not just the longest, involve the largest number of performers and enjoy the highest standards of any cultural activity we've organized," boasted Zhao Dongming, cultural activities director for the Beijing Olympic Organizing Committee.

Also cancelled last week was the Mob Festival in Beijing, an institution in the city's independent music scene that had more



**"They call it the 'People's Olympics,' but actually it's the 'State's Olympics,' a chance for the Communist party to show off'**

phase in China these days, nothing don't be too biased. CNN commentator Jack Cafferty "seriously realized professional ethics of journalists and human conscience" when he referred to China's government as "goats and dogs," and the country's products as "junk." Foreign ministry spokeswoman Jiang Yu said opponents.

The anger has spilled over into the real world. Foreign journalists have missed death threats, while French magazine *Carrefour* has become the subject of a nationwide-flushed boycott and protests in major cities around China because of the North Korean issue, which "hurt the feelings of the Chinese people," according to President Hu Jintao, in particular when a protester in Paris tried to grab the torch from a disabled Chinese athlete. Also fueling the boycotts were rumors

Internet are cool-hen-ay. A photo making the rounds online shows a man in Qingdao, the host city for Olympic sailing events, with a sign on his window saying: "Refuse to carry Frenchmen and dogs" (a reference to the story of an anti-Chinese sign hung outside a Paris restaurant shortly outside an area in the early 1900s). "While the French may be the target, I fear anyone who might be deemed by an angry Chinese population as French could become a target for frustration vented," writes one Canadian blogger in Beijing. "And if I'm thinking like this, I have to wonder just how many other people around the world are pondering the same thing, particularly when it comes to possibly racial-hen-haw for the Olympics."

Even Chance heroes aren't safe from the mob mentality. In fact, the disabled athlete

was in *occurrence*, forming frames of articles radically attacking Western governments, the media, and the Dalai Lama (described as a "wolf in monk's robes", a devil with a human face, but the heart of a beast") and calling on the public to reject a "people's vote" against the Dalai Lama's syndicated letters. Near the govt. crest, apparently realizing the danger of the charge-up misses when the world is about to come to town, is trying to dispense the rhetoric. Government criticism has been deleting pro-Bayonet material on Internet forums and quickly dispersing anti France demonstrations.

This is far from the first time the Chinese have protested foreign influence and boycotted foreign goods. Most notoriously, during the Boxer rebellion in 1900 at the end of the Qing dynasty, a group of peasants opposed

international history textbook in Japan that glossed over the millions of deaths during the country's occupation of China, and after the NATO bombing of the Chinese Embassy in Belgrade in 1999. That boycotts have failed out, and the government eventually put the lid on the process.

But Beijing's government is complacent and also flounders because this time around the calls for a ban on French boycotts haven't gotten very far. Protests are still in the works for protests against Carefour on May 1, a national holiday in China, and some have called for boycotts to last throughout the month. There were even calls for extending the action to American goods such as Coca-Cola and McDonald's. "The government's sacked these people," says British author *Justin Becker*, a long time Beijing resident. "They've shot themselves in the foot."

part Chinese people's feelings," and said it would more closely scrutinize foreign artists coming to perform in China. Since then, the authorities have told some Western bands to withdraw their lyrics to avoid official disapproval. A Vancouver-based dance-punk group—Tweedy Party's "We Say Do"—was told to withdraw its lyrics to the government before a planned show in Beijing, although it and the band dodged the requirement. A G.E.M. show concert in Beijing was cancelled shortly after Miki's show, though at her explanations were given. Harry Connick Jr. was allowed to play, but only if he stuck to the songs on a set list submitted to the authorities in advance. Turns out the wrong list

that 40 bands tried up to play. The night was elegantly organized, festive, which may be reached also for October, was to include foreign bands including ones from France. It was called off as a result of government intervention about our safe performers and independence minded young people congregating in the capital, with an eye to what happened during Stalin's show, said a flying across promoter who didn't want his name used for fear that his own events could be censored. "The impact on the scene is chilling," he said. "This is not the best way for China to connect the world with its energies."

Meanwhile, as part of the government's effort to ward off potential protesters, foreign accidents in China have been coming under increased scrutiny. Police are making





## [Innovation in Action]

Real Innovation.  
Real Time.

Canadians will find a lot of positive surprises in the new technologies of the next five years. Based on its expertise in matching technology with market and societal trends, IBM has identified five key innovations that will change the way people work, live and play – and probably sooner than you think. In an interview for *Maclean's* readers, IBM Canada President Dan Fortin previews "The Next Five in Five."



Dan Fortin  
President  
IBM Canada

## “When you bring together the best minds on business and social issues that’s where real innovation takes place.”

**Q** How do you define innovation? And where do new ideas come from today?

**A** At IBM, innovation doesn't just mean invention. It's where technology meets business insight and social issues. The "secret sauce" of innovation is collaboration – not only between private and public enterprises, but also with universities and researchers and public institutions. When you bring together the best minds on business and social issues that's where real innovation takes place.

**Q** IBM has compiled its own "Top 5" list of new technologies for the next five years. Which innovations made the list?

**A** There are a lot of new things coming, but IBM has identified five that we think are real game-changers. The first one is



healthcare, better diagnosis, superior patient care. We're also talking about food sustainability, understanding the provenance of where food comes from so consumers can make better decisions.

We're looking at the environment, and how technology can help reduce our carbon footprint. Technology is going to change transportation – to make us safer on the roads and reduce congestion. Finally, it's all about wireless communications. Our mobile phones will become essential assistants in the next five years.

**Q** Let's start with the technologies that will help consumers and businesses manage energy use. Surely this is a high-priority issue for many.

**A** "Smart metering" involves putting intelligence into the electrical meter on your home and street, giving us the ability to understand how we're consuming energy and how we can reduce usage at peak hours to save money – and reduce

pressure on the power grid. Imagine all your home appliances participating in an intelligent energy grid and the advantages of being able to remotely control your dishwasher, lights or air conditioning through your cell phone or web browser.

**Q** How is innovation going to change transportation?

**A** The technology we're coming will make driving safer and easier. New technologies will help our cars develop "reflexes" so they can avoid accidents and collisions.

Imagine sensors in and around your car that can talk to each other, and even between cars. They'll warn you that this is not a safe time to shift lanes or to merge on to a highway at that you're crawling too slowly. This could have a direct impact on our safety as drivers.

We'll also see reduced traffic congestion. When you're driving on a road, your satellite-linked car can tell you, "Your normal route is busy. Take this route instead." Moving traffic around more efficiently is also good for the entire city.

**Q** How will technology help biodiversity and businesses track the flow of food products, and what benefits will we see?

**A** Thanks to new technologies such as sensors and second-generation RFID, in the next decade, you and I will be able to make improved food choices by tracking the origin of the food we are consuming. When you buy a bag of apples, you'll know those apples came from a fifth-generation Macintosh tree near London, Ontario. You'll know it was grown without pesticides. You'll understand the carbon footprint required to get it from the tree to your basket.

**Q** How do you see cell phones developing into all-purpose life tools?

**A** We're seeing a collaboration of new technologies such as high-speed wireless Internet and 3D imagery that

will turn our cell phones and PDAs into powerful personal assistants. Let's say you're visiting a new city and want to find your own way around. Your PDA knows your preferences, so it can find restaurants for you. If you'd like to go see a show, it will tell you what's on, and help you buy the ticket online. When you get to the show, you can use the device to prove you've bought a ticket. These are just a few of the things you'll be able to do on your mobile phone.

**Q** IBM believes that technology will give physicians enhanced "senses" to diagnose and treat us. How will this help us stay healthier?

**A** We're on the verge of exciting developments around 3D visualization. Imagine new your doctors can examine your heart virtually. Then imagine them being able to compare your condition with the records of thousands of other patients. Depending on what they find, they can then determine the most appropriate treatment. The doctors will have more information to better diagnose your condition and in the end deliver better care to you.

**Q** What advice do you have for Canadians to help them keep up with all this innovation?

**A** There's so much happening around technology that you or I could get scared. We might start thinking, "How can we adapt?" My advice is to let it happen. Be inspired by the possibilities, because it's a terrific time for all of us.

To view the interview, please visit [www.macleans.ca/ibm](http://www.macleans.ca/ibm)

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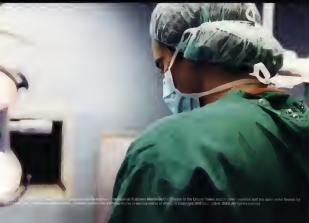
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## Unleashing the power of screw-ups



STEVE MALACH

Sometimes in 2009, David Cowan was visiting a college friend's home near Silicon Valley when his host suggested he meet the "two really smart Stanford students" who were running herpage. They were building a new Internet search engine and the thought Cowan might be interested.

As a partner with Besenow Venture Partners, one of the oldest venture-capital firms in the U.S., Cowan's job is to meet with entrepreneurs, evaluate fledgling business plans, and decide whether to invest. It's difficult, iterative work based on spending rough diamonds in an ocean of coal. But VC's like Cowan are commonly inundated by dozens of investment ideas, and the thought of chatting with a couple of geeks about their search engine couldn't have been less enticing.

"Here can I get out of the house without going anywhere near your garage?" he said. Only later did he learn that the two geeks, Sergey Brin and Larry Page, and the search engine they were building, would soon be called Google. It's no exaggeration to say Cowan's mission likely owes his firm billions.

The world now knows the story because Cowan revealed it in Besenow's website, where the firm has posted what it calls its "open portfolio"—a list of about 150 start-up ventures it had the chance to invest in during their formative years, but declined. It makes for amazing and sometimes painful reading, but Besenow handles it all with self-effacing humor and an endearing sense of humor.

Aside from the harrowing near miss with Google, there was the atrociously close call with "Stangeo? Color? Comic book? You've GOT to be kidding." Apple Computer paroled them in the 1970s, and it offered a chance to buy shares that valued the company at US\$50 million. Besenow regarded that as "ours govt only experience." Apple's now worth US\$145 billion. The far-gone-on Besenow pointed out FedEx sent separate faxes, and rejected the company that would become Compaq because it figured IBM would crush them in a head-to-head fight.

It's all in good fun, but what's fascinating and important about Besenow's comments is that it reveals directly to us our natural instincts when it comes to dealing with herble mistakes. Most of us go to great lengths to avoid acknowledging our big blunders. We

feel it'll reflect on both work and ourselves. And yet, here in Besenow, among its dozens of blunders, one effect is precisely the opposite of what you might expect.

Besenow's open portfolio doesn't hamper the company's credibility, it bolsters it. Reading such frank and funny true culture, you can't help but see the firm as confident, seasoned and refreshingly human. After all, a firm that can laugh (about itself) is a billion-dollar mistake must have had some spectacular successes along the way. And indeed they have. Stangeo, Stope, Verages, Timothy's Collier and Dick's Sporting Goods are just a few of the companies they helped

found. It's not as if they're bragging, but rather they're simply acknowledging the obvious—that any startup on Google was surely a natural consequence of our deeply mistakes. As a result, cognitive dissonance becomes, in Besenow's words, an "engine of self-improvement" to avoid falling prey to vulnerability.

All of this has big implications. It's why so many CEOs, politicians, and public officials (and yes, journalists) so often deflect and sidestep rather than undertake obvious

mistakes, and thus doom themselves to repeat the same errors over and over. It's also why investors tend to build as they had no idea for way too long, waiting there long after they're because they can't bear to admit they screwed up and should cut their losses.

What we do not realize is that it's not the mistake that only makes a credibility—only body can be right all the time. The thing that makes us look foolish is the strength of self-justifying rationale concocted to avoid admitting the obvious. As Amazon told the Chronicle of Higher Education last year, self-judgment is even more dangerous than lying because "it causes us to lie to ourselves—padding the wool over our own eyes. We are not even aware that a mistake was made, let alone that we made it."

Besenow may have just been having a little fun as it was open. But in doing so they shine a bright light on a corporate principle in life and success. "We would like to honor our these companies—whose phenomenal success inspires us to our ongoing endeavor to build growing businesses," they wrote.

This is the lesson of Besenow's research put into action: success requires the ability to compare cognitive dissonance, and the cycle of self-justification. In other words, to go on your own, and discover the power of saying "I screwed up." ■

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Failing to admit mistakes is natural, but costly

held into billion-dollar agreements. Why then, are we so fearful of open discussion of our mistakes? It seems that it all has to do with human nature—natural self-defense mechanisms that are hard to overcome.

Elliot Aronson is a psychology professor at the University of California Santa Cruz, and one of the world's foremost experts in "cognitive dissonance"—the uncomfortable system which a person simultaneously holds two contrary beliefs. Last year, he and co-author David Tiers released a book entitled *Unwashed Brains* (The New York Times) arguing that cognitive dissonance is at the root of our "mistake psychosis" culture.

To explain how this works, consider one of my less-than stellar professional moments back in 2004, I wrote a column arguing that Google, then trading at a price over US\$100

a share, was massively overvalued. This is now gleefully laughable. Google's revenues and profits have grown at an astonishing pace, and its stock is trading at US\$150 a share as of this week. This creates a painful dissonance. I consider myself a reasonably intelligent person (on most days), and I took an unusual financial decision to form my own firm at the time. And yet, there's no denying Google has exploded over the past three years, proving all my assumptions to be false. But rather than simply acknowledging the obvious—that my thesis on Google was surely a natural consequence of our deeply mistakes. As a result, cognitive dissonance becomes, in Aronson's words, an "engine of self-improvement" to avoid falling prey to vulnerability.

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The intersection between PC and TV technology comes closer by the day. You now have access on your PC to programming, movies, sports channels and other forms of entertainment that you once watched only on TV, although probably only in short bursts while sitting in an office chair. But soon, broadcast quality on PC will equal or surpass TV quality, even on the highest-priced HDTV. What will this mean for TVs and for the people who watch them?

## What's on? You choose.

Driven by ever-increasing speeds and rapid adoption of broadband services, the convergence of television and PC-media technology continues.

At this year's Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas, global giants such as Sony, Samsung, Pioneer and NEC unveiled for the public their contributions to the technological spectacle. Sony's Organic Light Emitting Diode (OLED) TV, for example, with a thickness of just 3 millimetres – or three credit cards – delivers an impressive contrast ratio of 1,000,000 to 1. It uses less power than a conventional liquid crystal display (LCD) or plasma TV, is available in Canada in its 11-inch version for about \$2,500 and fits against your living-room wall like an oversized postage stamp.

While Sony stole much of the thunder when its Blu-ray video technology was the day over Toshiba's HD DVD, other companies have delivered equally compelling but less publicized television technologies. Samsung, for example, has developed a \$200 less PVM plasma centered from the Internet as a computer to a high-definition television or HDTV. In the U.S., Netflix will distribute a movie player that enables its customers to stream their movies, bypassing their PCs, and instead of watching them on DVD.

Canada's equivalent to Netflix, Zipcar, and sales on the part of office to read movies to its customers, but that will change as broadband networks in this country continue to get faster. Within a few years, it will take less than a couple of seconds to download an entire feature-length movie over the Internet.

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Another Canadian company, Jung TV, boasts more than 10,000 live sports events a year along with hundreds of television channels from around the world, in real time, over the Internet to customers' home computers and laptops.

### Getting the picture

The arena of getting programming is certainly developing fast, but picture quality is the area of most concern to consumers. A PC usually delivers low-quality, jerky, jerky results that resemble canned preposers, while HDTV technology almost looks like the real McCoy. On the real McCoy.

This too will change. Canada already ranks among world leaders in HDTV penetration of pay-TV households. Around North America, more than 30 million households have an HDTV, according to Forrester Research, and their number will almost double in the next two years as prices fall.

Owners of some HDTVs can now download video clips. Among other companies offering such features, Pureplay has partnered with Google to stream YouTube video clips to HDTV. And TiVo has formed a partnership with Amazon.com that enables users to download TV shows and movies. Some of these services are not widely available yet in Canada, but their widespread arrival is just a matter of time.

More than 80% of Canadian households with Internet access now have a broadband connection. That online is spread to any device in the house. "And we're now moving to spreads of up to 50 megabits per second," says Michael Lin, chief strategy officer for Rogers Communications Inc. The impact will be considerable.

The impact will certainly extend to the devices that we use to watch movies, TV shows and video clips and to play video games. Set-top devices that set up to about \$400 already enable consumers to download videos, movies, games and other programming either to their TV sets or to their PCs in high definition. Apple has offers Apple TV, a set-top device that wirelessly connects computers to televisions.

### Together at last

The next step is to combine the PC monitor with the HDTV in a single device. Seems inevitable. But surprisingly some people don't think it will happen.

More than two years ago, companies like Gateway, Dell and Hewlett-Packard entered the TV business when they noticed the similarities between flat-panel television sets and PC monitors. All they had to do was add a tuner and a volume control to a monitor, and they had access to an entirely new marketplace.

But none of these companies has gone as far as companies like Samsung, LG and ASUS. The Dell TV from ASUS reportedly includes a 42-inch LCD panel and an integrated Linux PC that enables users to surf the Internet and send e-mails. LG's 22-inch Flatron display incorporates PC-friendly controls along with a TV tuner. Samsung has developed the SpeedStream as a PC monitor and a high-definition television ideal for consumers in compact apartments. "Although it is slightly pricier than your average PC monitor, it's far

more convenient than the added costs and we feel worth it," said one enthusiastic web blogger after purchasing a unit. It's a PC monitor. It is almost worth the price on its own.

Even as this technology advances, its adoption by consumers may have more to do with the companies that deliver the content and with the way consumers use it than with the TV or PC monitor they use. People may share videos even from PCs, for example, but have to pay people watch full-length movies while watching videos on their desks.

As his long-time commentator Richard Siskel pointed out in a 2006 article in the New York Times, consumers may not want to give up access to the channels they buy from their cable providers to buy programs from the Internet. And cable networks may not want to jeopardize their guaranteed monthly subscription fees to provide a "free" watching Internet alternative.

It is probably no coincidence that the versions of TV programs sold through iTunes or Google Video are inferior in picture quality to what is offered by cable companies, the Times says. As for the technology involved in driving up video market over the Internet to a TV set, one industry expert told the Times: "It's a very complicated to set up unless you have a 13-year-old son."

### Two different worlds

To address these complications, some home-theatre purveyors now access video downloads from a dedicated PC. On the PC's desktop, for example, you can download music, video and photo files and play them in your living room on a wide-screen television. The technology doesn't accommodate all types of audio and video files, however, and a 13-year-old boy would come in handy at least when you're setting it up.

In the meantime, companies like Pioneer are sticking to their knitting, improving their existing products and selling a TV or TV. In the case of Pioneer, a Kuro. The Japanese word for black. Kuro technology gives you richer, greater definition, additional shades, more depth and sharper detail for greater clarity.

"We've had the hardware to make some sort of PC down TV console for at least 20 years," says Paul Slattery in Siskel's magazine. "With the help of a display adapter, you can see anything on your living room screen that you can see on your PC. Today's computers have the power for HD resolution, high-speed bandwidth and home-wide networking."

Butlin says the way people use the technology determines the content they choose, citing what both marketers call the "2-foot effect" of the PC versus the "10-foot effect" of the TV.

"When you use a computer, you want to lean forward and engage with the thing, typing and clicking and mousing," he says. "When you watch TV, you want to sit back and put your feet up on the couch. My best-selling books can affect anything they want set up a large HDTV with cable and DVD players - even go as far as it with a laptop or their laptop. They use Google and still while watching TV, but they keep their 2-foot and 10-foot worlds separate."



## Definitions, high and low

Here's a guide to the words that you'll hear a lot in the tech news.

**Personal Video Recorder (PVR)** Similar to a video cassette recorder (VCR), a PVR stores television clips in digital format. A PVR records on moving tape while a VCR records video data digitally and stores them on a hard drive, without any tape at all. Clips can be stored, played back, fast-forward, rewound, pause or program and, if you can with a VCR, they can also be played directly from one part of the program to another without having to wind it back-forward the data stream.

Users can watch a TV program in real time while recording it as a PVR. It's an automation option. The user can pause the program. The PVR will continue to record it so that the user can continue watching from the point at which the automation occurred, simply by hitting the play button. PVRs don't require small tapes, and users can record the events they want individually, every time it occurs.

### High-Definition Television (HDTV)

Combining a wide-screen picture similar to those shown in movie theatres with multi-channel audio, an HDTV delivers a better picture and better sound than a conventional television set. For each pixel on a conventional TV, for example, HDTV has 4 pixels. That means richer colours, more intense and better-defined images, and a better quality picture. HDTV screens are wider than conventional TV screens by about one-third.

Since the first HDTV broadcast, in the U.S. in 1995, more than 200 HDTV channels have become available in Canada. Blu-ray and H-DVD discs also have opened up new doors in high definition for viewing on HDTVs.

**High-Defi DVD** With their origins in the LaserDisc in 1988, Blu-ray and HD DVD both evolved as standards for the technology used to store and display digital video and audio content. Toshiba eventually backed into HD DVD while Sony research evolved into Blu-ray. Both use the same kind of laser, but information is stored differently on a Blu-ray disc and HD-DVD can store more information.

The two technologies are technically incompatible as well. Among other things, Blu-ray discs are coated with a thin layer of silver, which makes them more expensive than HD-DVD discs. As *Forbes* contributor Ryan Black says, "Blu-ray discs are more expensive but hold more data than, that's all."

## Blu-ray rocks

The companies that have supported HD DVD technology have all but thrown in the towel in capitulation to Sony Corp. a Blu-ray technology. Toshiba announced in February that it would stop promoting its HD DVD format, and movie studios have abandoned the format.

Not only will this resolution shake the marketplace, it could also open doors for the movies that we play on them, and for the devices themselves.

Five of the seven major film studios now back Blu-ray exclusively. Among other things, that means that they will stop producing their movies in both formats which should reduce costs. Whether that will lead to a reduction in the cost to consumers of movie rentals and downloads is more to be seen.

In both formats, users receive clear high-definition pictures and sound. But the technologies are incompatible with each other, and you don't see either one on an older DVD player.

The HD DVD format was the more expensive of the two, because it was more similar to previous video technology. HD DVD devices cost about \$250 while Blu-ray based high recording capacity and sold for \$400 or more before release.

With Toshiba now endorsing the equivalent of a five-year HD DVD technology, it may not in fact disappear completely. That the limited time-span of film titles will reflect total damage on the format, says a report from the *Gartner Group*.

Even as Sony and its allies perform their Blu-ray victory dance, however, other technologies threaten to split the party. As high-quality digital video downloads become more widely available, consumers may choose that alternative rather than

renting or buying costly Blu-ray discs every time they want to watch their films.

As technology writer Paul Glavinich says, "Most consumers, whether subscribed to broadband Internet services or not, are neither accustomed at pulling content from the cloud down to their television screens at the moment. But digital downloads are likely to provide us with a way to the coming masses, courtesy of new developments by designers like Apple and Netflix. I would even go so far as to consider the possibility of downloads achieving truly mainstream status in advance of any similar achievement by Blu-ray."

Other commentators have taken a similarly cautious approach to the triumph of Blu-ray technology. Although Blu-ray has won this battle, it may not have won the war, says a report in the U.K.'s *Daily Telegraph*. "As home Internet speeds become faster and consumers get used to video-on-demand services, the movie market could undergo a similar change in the music sector with films displaced rather than physically bought."

It's worth remembering that it was the games market, not movie buffs, that gave Blu-ray its decisive edge over the last couple of years. Sony's PlayStation 3 has built-in Blu-ray player, a device feature in the fastest-growing reference, according to the *Nielsen* group. Sony said 3.2 million PlayStation 3 consoles in Europe alone in 18 weeks the number of standalone film players.

New titles that consumers no longer have to worry about competing HD DVD technology, those figures may change. Or the movie market could move in a "download" direction.



deployment will be one of the largest in the world, according to the *Gartner* research firm. Similarly, in Pakistan, Northern Telecom is installing the world's first nationwide WiMax network. In Canada, mobile video subscribers now outnumber fixed-line subscribers, while mobile Internet connections will soon surpass the number of fixed-line connections. Mobile devices can accommodate up to 100 MB of information, if high-speed wireless consumers to watch films, download e-books, play games and push access to many other forms of entertainment anytime, any place.

## Who's got top growth? Not Alberta.

**BY NANCY MACDONALD** • Alberta was lauded off its growth as Canada's fastest-growing provincial economy, Statistics Canada said Monday. The winners' tiger's three-year reign was ended as the Northwest Territories, Nunavut and Newfoundland posted modest growth rates for 2007. Thanks to dramatic mining and high commodities prices, the economies of the two western provinces jumped a staggering 13 per cent, while Newfoundland's economy grew by nine per cent, due to oil and natural product sales. (Banks, which benefited from high copper and gold prices, posted a more modest growth rate of 1.8 per cent.)

"The three producing oil-rich provinces combined over 51.2 billion—or 101 per cent—of nominal GDP in 2007," such spokesperson with the N.W.T. premier's office. "This activity yielded an increased employment and higher average incomes in the N.W.T., and growth in our retail and wholesale sectors," he said, adding that the Mackenzie gas project was "a bright spot."



largely been speeded by the effects of the strong global U.S. economy. Nor do Ontario, whose manufacturing output lagged for the third year running, due to weaker U.S. demand, high energy prices and the rise in the price of the loonie. Overall, growth slipped 2.1 per cent, as production dropped in 16 of 21 manufacturing industries. For the fourth consecutive year, growth in Ontario and Quebec has trailed the national average, which currently stands at 2.7 per cent. Indeed, a new TD Economics report projects that Ontario is set to become a have-not province, unable to recover significant portions of what was a single year's production. The clear indicator is that far of the shifting sands of economic power in Canada.

## Finally, a bank admits it goofed up

**BY JACOB HENRY** • The financial crisis that shook the world's banks has hit the world's largest of them, Canada's Royal Bank. Last week at the annual meeting of analyst Zurich-based UBS AG, the bank's CEO Marcel Rohner headlined a 50-page message



UBS CEO Marcel Rohner issued a "own culpa." Our banker? Nothing.

to shareholders explaining how it lost nearly US\$40 billion betting on the U.S. subprime mortgage sector. Just don't expect anything similar from Canada's stumbling banks. The study was a summary of a longer report. UBS was forced to provide to Swiss regulators, and it's full of awkward admissions. Swiss regulators in the report, "UBS' losses up to now appear to be limited to 'tail' events," will grow problems much deeper in the unfolding. How did errors seriously fail to assess the true value of the bank's bets on housing in the U.S. and when handling our massive losses, the bank's difficult decision between retaining gains and selling was still, and these errors by borrowing cheap money and taking wild bets. The charge that emerges is of a bank willing to turn a blind eye, so long as the money kept rolling in.

In Canada, where we have watched several of Bay Street's giant fall far from their haunts—including CIBC, which has written down \$4 billion in subprime losses so far—the scandal surrounding UBS reports is astonishing for another reason: its very existence. The Office of the Superintendent of Financial Institutions in Ottawa didn't return calls asking whether Canadian banks have had to put their subprime goal up in writing. Did they put their breath? "There is no tradition in Canada of holding banking executives accountable," says shareholder activist Bob Verdon. "What happens in Canada is that high rollers can pay themselves big bonuses if they work, but there are no penalties if they don't."

## RIM's slow motion Meteor

**BY STEVE BAICER** • There's nothing quite like a new product launch to get the world's legions of techies excited. And when the signal is coming from Canada's high-tech darling, *Research In Motion*, and its upcoming product is geared to head with the world's reigning champion of ultra cool gizmos, *Apple Computer*, you have the makings of a pack-hype knockout.

Last week, the storm made landfall with eager reports that RIM's new 9600 series phone will not be released until August, rather than June, as many had anticipated. The year series, due to be called the *Meteor*, is expected to be key to RIM's efforts to hold off the challenge of *Apple's iPhone*. Any personal problems with a Meteor are enough to start bloggers wagging in cyberpace, and all the speculation over RIM's stock for a small swoon last Friday.



Will RIM's 9600 series phone be better? Don't let us know if it is.

The fastest speculation dance, however, unfolded this afternoon as the 9600 series hit RIM's future growth. After close to a decade dominating the field by selling BlackBerry to professional use, the new frontier is the consumer market. Pushing pocket Wi-Fi browsers and e-mail devices to teens, teenagers and adults urban means in a potential gold mine, and RIM's move in an August release may not be a big deal, but how the Meteor performs once it hits the masses certainly is.



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Brian McPherson  
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KATAKAT, 500-M WORLD AND OLYMPIC CHAMPION, AGED 26

## Adam van Koeverden UNFINISHED BUSINESS

STORY BY JONATHAN GATHEHOUSE  
PHOTOGRAPH BY CHRISTOPHER WAHL

It's not difficult to build a case that Adam van Koeverden is some sort of freak of nature. The 26-year-old kayaker, reigning world and Olympic champion in the K1-500 m, and at least the second-best man on earth at the K1-1000 m, has a resting heart rate that borders on the supernatural - 38 beats per minute. His VO<sub>2</sub> max, the measure of how many millilitres of oxygen per kilogram he can utilize during a minute of full-tilt activity, is in the mid-to-high 70s. (Someone who scores 60 is considered an elite athlete. A fit, 30-year-old, fit runner would be lucky to hit 65.) His body produces next to no lactic acid, the stuff that builds up in his body during the Olympic final for your event, come



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**BY BARBARA RUGHTON AND NICHOLAS KÖHLER**

**D**anzy Joffe is only half-joking when he says that if he'd taken advice on the last day of vet school in Saskatoon and worked up some two decades later in his current workplace, he would not have believed it was an animal hospital. Joffe is one of 11 specialists at the C.A.R.E. Centre, a 18,000-sq.-foot palace of veterinary medicine built two years ago in Calgary by a consortium that owns 25 vet clinics and animal hospitals across British Columbia and Alberta. It has four operating theatres, a \$100,000 CT machine, two ultrasound machines, a digital X-ray unit, an endoscopy centre, a lab and 16 examination rooms. Its intensive care unit houses 20 cages and eight dog runs, staffed 24/7. "It's just like an emergency centre at a tertiary care human hospital," Joffe says.

There is almost no pet illness that can't be treated here. For eye problems, C.A.R.E. provides ophthalmologists who perform cataract surgery. Otolaryngologists can perform polypoid resection or adenectomy—minimally invasive surgery on polyps. To treat cancer, a surgically conscious disease in dogs and cats, says Joffe, "Our oncologist can offer hormone chemotherapy protocols and our surgeons can do very extreme and elaborate mastectomies, including axillary removals, amputations and bone transplant from cadaver dogs." And MRIs, C.A.R.E. has a stunning two appointment a week booked at a private human facility in the city. "For you or I it might be a several month process," says Joffe of getting an MRI. "We get it done in a week or less."

Between the ER and the referral practice, C.A.R.E. sees some 8,000 pets a year, a rising growth number for a place that has no primary medical care and specializes in delivering the kind of medical services people find at a hospital. This fall, when Canada's fifth vet school opens at the University of Calgary and C.A.R.E. becomes part of its teaching hospital, its referrals are likely to grow even

more. Premium vet care may have an easier sell in a booming Alberta, Joffe says, but money isn't the bottom line. "If someone sees a friend get a hip replacement, they demand that for their pet," he says. "They want what people can have."

Trouble is, when it comes to medical care in Canada, our pets are often getting what we get—and a whole lot more besides. And they're getting it faster too. Living past about every machine known to human health care—CT scans, MRIs, ultrasounds, lasers and scopes of all sorts—animal cardiologists and oncologists, ophthalmologists, dermatologists and orthopedic surgeons are offering a level of service so high that it rivals some of our peers—human medicine's. We can identify every pet problem from blood test alone to blood testing them individually.

That's where owners of Boston and Bulldogs and even Dalmatians have a decided advantage over their human owners in this country. If you are going to be sick in Canada, you are much further ahead being a beloved dog or cat. Even pet horses have far better prospects for healthier lives now than they ever had before. And when care for our dogs, cats and horses puts our own systems to the greatest stress in all the domains of wait times and access to specialists. Our pets may not be able to talk, but they can get an appointment with primary care vet within 24 hours and a specialist within the week. "I have a friend who had a dog with cancer and it got resolved within two weeks," says Tina Kelly.

**The average length of time people waited to see a specialist in Canada rose from 0.8 weeks in 2006 to 0.2 weeks in 2007, according to the Fraser Institute**

as it lagged in Waterloo, Ont. "For something like that in a human, I bet the response would've been 10 times as long."

**A**nother: There are just 10,000 vets in this country compared to over 62,000 human doctors. But try, as a human, to get an appointment with a specialist. Try, for that matter, getting a GP—five million Canadians, about 15 per cent of the population, don't have one, while 15 per cent of those who do still report trouble securing routine care. And a referral from your family doctor to a specialist puts you in a queue for a new arrival. According to the most recent edition of "Waiting Your Turn."

**THE WATER CURE:** At the 404 Veterinary Hospital, certified canine rehab vet Joanne Fagouo helps dogs run on all fours again, post-op, with hydrotherapy and a hydrostatic lift.

Hospital/Veterinarian in Canada," the Fraser Institute's annual survey of wait times across the country, the number of weeks people waited to see a specialist rose from a median of 0.8 in 2006 to a median of 0.2 weeks in 2007. The journey from specialist to actual treatment took a median of nine weeks after that.

Or try getting a CT scan. The median wait in Canada in 2007 was 4.7 weeks, a little less than that in Ontario, Alberta and elsewhere, but a median of eight weeks if you were in Manitoba, the longest delay in the country. As MRI scans? The median was just over 10 weeks, though in Newfoundland and Labrador you waited a median of six. Got a bad hip? Try and find a comfortable position on the couch, you'll wait a while—ranging from a median of 13.5 to 16 weeks from the time you see a specialist to the time you get a new hip, depending on where you are (half of Canadians received treatment within the provisional wait times benchmark of 26 weeks or less, still an awfully long slog, and still longer than doctors would like to see their patients wait, whatever the benchmark).

How wide a median of 13 weeks in Alberta for cancer surgery in 2007 (the median rose to 17 weeks, though most wait 23 weeks, according to provincial numbers), 12 in B.C. (current provincial numbers show that down to a median of eight), but is long at 24 weeks in some parts of Canada. Meanwhile, your friend Huffy likely got cataract surgery in just a few days—provided you paid for the procedure.

Between the time a woman books a date with an oncologist in Alberta for breast cancer and the time she is finally seen, she'll wait a median of two or three weeks, according to Alberta Waitline Registry data for the 90 days preceding Feb. 29 this year. She'll wait a median of a

week between then and when she actually begins chemotherapy, too. If you're looking for a radiation oncologist, period in a date between two and 10 weeks from now just to have an appointment, then prepare to wait a median of as much as six weeks to start radiation therapy. Those prospects would make Ginger howl with despair (after cancer, right, just grin and bear it).

As for cost per procedure—though in most provinces you're not allowed to shop—finding out how much the province shelled out for joint-replacement or cataract surgery puts us on trouble-free ground. "Nobody knows what the costs," says Rick Baker, founder of Vancouver-based Timely Method Alberta



**HOSPITALS** Equine surgeon Bruce Watt (above) operates on a patient with head trauma and (right) reads it for a visit to the rehabilitation room. Many horses can now be saved

tries like, which under the best of circumstances for private medical procedures across North America for Canadian clients (Hospitals are a similar business for Americans.) "Why do they not know? Because they don't need to know," says Baker. Hospitals in Canada are funded on an annual basis, not according to the number of patients they see and what ailments they treat, as in the realm of animal hospitals. "All they know is they get \$10 million per hospital from the government, if you ask about a specific procedure, they wouldn't have a clue."

Determining how much a physician charges for a hip replacement, say, doesn't help either. Doctors' fees for a hip job range as high as \$100,000 to \$150,000 in the U.S., according to "Physicians in Canada: Fee For Service Information, 2009/2010," a Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI) report. But the total cost of the procedure also includes an anesthesiologist's fee, nursing and various other hospital expenses, a median in Canada of \$1,577 without the physician's charge, according to "The Cost of Hospital Stay: Why Costs Vary," released this year by CIHI. Confined? You're not alone. Insured, costing individual pet owners in Canada is such a Kafkaesque puzzle that when Baker actually quotes his cheapest price for a new hip—a grand total of \$15,000 in a U.S. facility—it's a bit of a relief. (Baker delivers in his latest kind: \$4,200 to remove a tonsil, \$1,200 to remove a cat's test, \$16,000 to remove a horse's.)

The cost of not knowing what procedures at Canadian hospitals are worth is systemic sloth. "Under global budgets, you really don't find complete cost accounting because they really don't see incentive to do it," says the Fraser Institute's Nadeau. He's right, as is the author of "Whither Your Tune." "It really does affect

efficiency because you can't tell precisely where the inefficiencies are." Adds Canadian Medical Association president Dr. Brian Day: "We have excessive costs of administration and we have excessive costs of wait time." What has created more expenses because deferred treatment produces a greater risk of complication, says Day. And sick folks who can't wait because the health system makes them wait also sap the economy, he says. "When Canadians do make it to hospital, they end up languishing in aging buildings operated under lumbering bureaucracies and suffering pandering staff shortages."

And our pet? They get shiny new facilities and all the doctors they could ever hope to see and shaggy their claws in—and doctors know it. As recently as 2001, when he would not medical director of the provincial Canine Surgery Centre in Vancouver, Day led the pet pendulum to defend the notion of a Canadian parallel private system for humans—the same kind that exists in countries like Japan, Germany and Switzerland, all of which retain universal health care but don't have health-care troubles. "When you have a parallel private system, it helps the public system," Day said then, during a tele news appearance. "That has given justice across the country the same rights of access that your pets have."

Day doesn't mind illustrating the companion son today, even if he is head of the CMA. "This is a country in which pets, with respect to their ability to purchase private health-care services, have more rights than their owners do," he told *Maclean's*. "People cannot do spend money on their pets' bills if it's their own body, they have to pay a lawyer and wait for the court unless they leave home and go to another province or country." The vet community doesn't argue. "The reason animals

have faster and better care is that the vet care is a private enterprise," says Dr. Kenneth Polak, CEO and senior partner of the store of the Alta Vista Animal Hospital in Ottawa. "And people are prepared to pay" for fast care. Polak recently needed an MRI, but with his month-long wait, he went to Ontario where he had a referral to a private hospital. He skipped over to Quebec—along with B.C., one of two provinces where hospitals permit some private health care procedures—and had one done right away, for \$1,000. "Should we try to make the human system closer to the veterinary system?" he asks. "Which is better? I think the veterinary system works just fine."

Just ask Bailey, who's never experienced anything like physiotherapy in her life. Still, within minutes of hobbling into the 404 Veterinary Hospital in Newmarket, Ont., she has been covered into a three-foot by seven-foot underwater treadmill and is ready for her first swim. Inside the \$15,000 tank, Dr. Tim Edwards, a canine rehabilitation therapist, holds the seven-year-old black lab steady while an assistant starts the treadmill and turns on the water that will buoy her 77 lb. as she walks. Off to



the left, near a \$16,000 16-foot-by-eight-foot therapy pool with a hydraulic lift, Jeanne Pagano, a vet with a special interest in animal acupuncture and pain management, watches Bailey's progress with an approving smile. A small brown water dog, Bailey only gets nervous about his owner, Mike Thrush, most out of her line of sight. She is handling the therapy well, Edwards reports. "All it takes is a little patience."

Well, it takes that and a lot more. Bailey is Mike Thrush's best friend. His bikes with her, takes her swimming and plays hide-and-go-seek with her in the woods near his four-acre horse farm. Earlier this spring, during a visit to her land she spent glomping through the ice and snow, Bailey disrupted a squirrel in her left hind leg. Then Monday, Thrush's family vet recommended a consultation with Dr. Kevin Holcomb, a surgeon and founding partner with Edwards and Pagano of the 404 vet hospital. Bailey saw him the following day. Now he there any time spent in the waiting room. "At our clinic we prefer anesthesia to not making clients wait with their pets for more than five minutes," says Lakow. Hearing about Bailey in the operating room just days later, Lakow reported what is known as

**"This is a country in which pets, with respect to the ability to purchase private health insurance, have more rights than their owners," says Dr. Brian Day**

a torn cruciate ligament. It was fairly work, but the follow-up is even more extraordinary. Says Thrush, "When I saw that horse owner for an MRI, I was in awe."

Physiotherapy for pets, given by veterinarians and certified in the U.S., is still new in most parts of Canada. Pagano sees some 10 animals a day—mostly dogs, though she's had one cat in that underwater treadmill—and performs three acupuncture for horse muscles. "Without such treatment, Bailey, for one, would have languished at home for months after the operation while Thrush struggled to keep her from rearing herself. When she is administered to be in good as new in a matter of weeks (in this regard too, people fare less well: according to a national Canadian Physiotherapy Association survey conducted in January, a third of

equines, and there is no lack of treatment to keep them shuffling along well into their late 20s or early 30s. Made in veterinarian Mike McKee not only offer checkups, they they now call wellness exams, they come armed with thoracoscopes and endoscopes, portable ultrasound machines and digital diagnostics.

And to even own accurately diagnose hoof and leg problems, especially fractures, McKee-Powell recently bought Canada's first standing MRI machine. It's a treat that is close on mildly sedated standing horses and is much less onerous than the big vet hospital machines, which require the 1,000-plus lbs. animals to be transferred and laid on their sides. McKee says plenty of owners according to pay \$2,000 to hire a dolly pickup truck. But the horse and the trailer are gleam-

Canadian currently in need of physio still wait a month or more for an appointment, and pay between \$40 and \$70 a pop, depending on how they're insured, paid out by a physician or a hospital. Physiotherapy is generally covered by provincial health plans.

Thrush, who once a loan car company couldn't be happy to lease his best car, he says, and never got this much attention. And although he paid about \$3,000 for Bailey's surgery and \$950 for his physio sessions, he says, "I would do anything for my dog. Ever thought in my wildest dreams that she would be getting this care?"

Horses don't number in the millions like the billions of this country, but they may soon. In the past 20 years in Ontario, the herd has jumped 20 per cent, to nearly 180,000 animals, about 45 per cent of all the horses in Canada. "They are almost the new dog," says Dr. Melvin McKee, co-owner of McKee-Powell Equine Services, a practice in the heart of horse country near Toronto. McKee and his partner, veterinarian and master farrier Mike Powell, have three horses with a total of 10 vets and 10 support staff. "People support their horses,"



ing," she says. "I think they look after the horses far more than they do themselves."

There is no waiting either. The MRI can be booked within days, and the results are back in 48 hours, says McKee. "My brother Michael is an orthopaedic surgeon in downtown Toronto, and he has more concentration about this all the time: people have to wait six months for an MRI to pump the queue and go to Buffalo. He can hardly get his head around it."

To hear an equine veterinary surgeon tell it, many horses that would have been dead a decade or two ago can now be saved, quickly and successfully. Last year Dr. Bruce Whit, who runs the Canadian Equine Hospital near Toronto, treated over 200 horses and operated on 125 more. He saw a miniature horse, for example, that had been crippled by a drought horse while their owners were trying to load them both onto a trailer. The mini's hind leg was badly broken, almost dangling, the kind of injury that could only be fixed with a cure with a scalpel. Dr. Whit cut it and put joints through the cast and the bone to secure it. Today the mini is as good as new, he says, and the owner is happy as can be. And since he operates with no tech who runs the anesthetics, he can move quickly, any time of the day or night.

Born in Ontario, he says, the human health care system is "slow as molasses" if he sees a horse that needs an MRI, he sends it to the Ontario Veterinary College in Guelph, and "I can have it over there within a week, study" it in veterinary medicine. Dr. Whit says, there are not only new techniques and knowledge and equipment. "There's a huge private industry medicine that just does not exist in the human health field."

Learn, Stenstrom continues to say. She and her animals have been to Dr. Pulley's Alta Vista Animal Hospital in Ottawa often over the last several years. Stenstrom works for the Treasury Board, and in her

spare time she's a greyhound aficionado. It is a love affair fraught with heartbreak. Greyhounds are more likely to get cancer than almost any other dog breed. In the spring of 2005, her male, Baccus, began to act lopsided. At first, the specialist at Alta Vista thought it was a tick-borne disease, and sent samples to a specialty lab in the U.S., but that wasn't it. The vet also did an ultrasound, which determined only that the dog had an enlarged spleen. Then a second dog, Closer, started to limp. In the meantime, Stenstrom found Dr. Guillermo Couto, a greyhound cancer specialist at Ohio State University.

### A study done last year reports that in the average Canadian medical school, students study pain management for 16 hours. Vet students spend 87 hours on it.

Pretty good, Couto and his Canadian colleagues, including the specialist at Alta Vista and Stenstrom's primary care doctor, were teaching greyhound Stenstrom was running by the level of co-operation and the quick turnaround time, even for complicated procedures. "I never had any delays," she says. "I could see the specialist at Alta Vista the same day we brought him in."

Ultimately, the cost about \$14,000, probably more than the would spend on him, Stenstrom says, but he never developed any health problems. But the quality of care and the team approach made Stenstrom feel that everyone had tried to do their level best to help. Stenstrom withdrew with three years before she found her primary health care vet—staying-at-home, she calls it—and now, she says, "I have a better relationship with him than I do with my doctor. I only go to my doctor when I absolutely have

to. With my vet, it's a partnership."

In modern veterinary medicine, the animal-human bond has now extended to vets who have grown in the public's estimation from rural animal doctors to trained specialists. "Vets are the people who are only trained in human medicine," says Dr. Tim Ophir, a specialist at the Atlantic Veterinary College (AVC) at the University of Prince Edward Island in Charlottetown. "They are highly educated." And it's not all about what he calls "the fancy games" either. In the vet business, he says, there is a lot of experiential learning, a lot of "tearful wisdom" so go along with the knowledge explosion. You are the old-style doctors, the kinds of irregular figures who, washed in hand, turn up for horse calls today only in gritty old films.

But how the white-coat doc in high-tech AVC is currently pioneering a revolutionary new treatment for horses with tendon and ligament injuries. Dr. Lucie McKee, an AVC equine surgeon and scientist, is working with a bio sciences company called VetCell in England that has developed a way to grow healthy stem cells from bone marrow in a horse's sternum. She is travelling across the country to teach vets how to take the samples they will then send to her lab, where she will isolate the stem cells and expand them, typically to 50 million, and ship them back to the local vets. With ultrasound machines to guide them, they will inject the cells into the site of the injury. "What the stem cells are supposed to do is promote regeneration of normal tendon tissue so that the function is ideal and recovery is decreased," he says. "The treatment is so revolutionary, it may be well on people in the near future."

Bells and whistles and processing machines aside, vets are also in the pet management business, where there's been a revolution. As recently as 2001, cats came home after being spayed or neutered with no pain medication at all. Very thought pain would keep them quiet enough for the stitches to heal. Now veterinary students are taught more about pain management than medical students or nurses in training, according to surveys of health care professionals in major universities across Canada—and four vet schools. The study, done last year for the Canadian Pain Society by Judy Whit-McNair, a professor at U of T's Haskins Faculty of Nursing, determined that in medical schools, students were taught 16 hours of pain management, in nursing schools, it was 13 hours. But vet students received 87 hours of pain management instruction, an average



Dr. Cathy Hooper at the Glendale Veterinary Hospital in Brampton, Ont., is using a new tool to treat pain. It's a non-surgical, low-level laser with diode light that helps dogs and cats that are arthritic. "It can take the pain away without the need for drugs," she says, "and help to heal wounds." Her low-level laser is hand-held, and delivers heat light through the skin surface. It works by stimulating the body's natural healing cells at the cellular level. Based on all she can feel nothing. "Lasers are being used in remarkable ways," she says. "They're not common here, but I am very proud to say I have one."

When Melissa McKee, 33, talks about her patients—horses with heart problems and lameness, breathing difficulties, she manages to sound upbeat and happy. When her brother Michael, a 45-year-old orthopaedic surgeon at St. Michael's Hospital in Toronto, tells her his patients, he sounds like he has a two-ton weight on his shoulders. Michael specializes in upper extremities and trauma. He does shoulder replacement, elbow replacement, fractures and foot fracture reconstruction. His specialising in handling fractures that don't do well and that have to be fixed after another doctor's initial attempt, something that happens fairly frequently.

As a specialist, seeing Michael McKee normally takes about six to eight months. "Between the time I saw you and the time you had surgery, does it seem like it was six to seven months," he says. He is locked in a system with no wriggle room. "St. Mike's is pretty decent about giving me operating room time, but I need more and I can't get

### When vet Melissa McKee talks about bones, she's upbeat. Her brother, an orthopaedic surgeon at St. Mike's Hospital, sounds like he is carrying a two-ton weight.

more," he says. Although they are both admitted, there is a big difference between Michael and Melissa. "She is very good at what she does and she has more and more demand for her services, so she expands," he says. "I have the same thing—an overwhelming demand, but I can't expand. I work at a hospital that is one of the most efficient in the province, but our beds are full and our operating rooms are in a fix."

If a person had money? "If a person had money, they could go to Buffalo or New York and if they know you are coming, you could go get your consultation, get your MRI the same afternoon and your surgery the next day. As long as you can afford it, the next morning you could be a work."

Kind of like animals? "Yes," says Michael. Both sets of doctors have more to offer than they have ever had before, but doctors don't have the resources. Says Michael McKee, "The veterinary industry looks for business

LASERS are a new tool to treat pain, says Dr. Cathy Hooper. Can't wait to find a thing.

and comes to a parking that won't be looked after. Mel I spend most of my time actively defying as much as I can." Brian Day, who runs the problem in part as a symptom of how Canada's memories of death find our hospitals. Rather than having hospitals close new patients with better care, and expand in response to greater demand, Canadian hospitals are closed with fixed costly budgets. "The money does not follow the patient; the way it does is the animal health system," says Day. "If you go to a veterinary hospital, you're bringing revenue to the hospital. If you go to a hospital in Calgary, you are using up the blood funding that it gets each year."

In Winnipeg, Dr. Graham Goodridge, a man who was instrumental in bringing one of Canada's first MRIs for animals to the vet school in Saskatoon, is amazed when he considers the change in animal medicine

over the 15 years he's been in practice—but not all of it is good, in his opinion. In 1975, he remembers, most owners would opt for euthanasia if they were faced with a 15-year-old horse. Then, about 15 years ago, he says, "About 100,000 referring doctors

owners of animals as more and more. Now it is just assumed that people are the ones who get their pet, responsible for every bit of their health care, no matter the extent or the cost. "We have to be careful that we don't guide people into feeling that they have to do all these things," he says.

But the point is, day can it be worth it? Anyone who has watched a loved one limp along in their bed after they get an operation, or has seen an aging relative limp in their bed, knows what a helpless feeling it is. With pets, people are free to spend their money—and even if the animal can't be cured, they know that everything that could be done was done. Says Goodridge, "At least pet owners get peace of mind." It's hard to accept that when it comes to our human loved ones, our children can't always get the same. ■

ON THE WEB: For more proof, your pet has made visit [www.uscavet.ca/pain.html](http://www.uscavet.ca/pain.html)



ADDY'S LIFE: Bailey and other animals, including owner Mike Thibault (left) with leg

PHOTOGRAPH BY CHRISTOPHER WALK

PHOTOGRAPH BY JEFF AMBLES

TONICS

### CHOCOLATE: HEART HELP FOR DIABETICS?

For most diabetics, sweets are forbidden, but a British study is looking at whether flavonoids found in chocolate can protect those with Type-2 diabetes from heart disease. A group of 100 diabetic women are being asked to eat one bar of chocolate per day (containing 5.5 grams the amount of flavonoids in a regular chocolate) for 12 months. The participants will receive regular dietary advice to help lose weight and get during the study.





**ANTI-FANS CONDEMNED CHEN. FOR OTHERS, HE BECAME A FREEDOM-OF-SPEECH ISSUE.**

in a 2006 interview, "I swear becoming an entertainer has saved my life and made me more focused. I was so lost before."

**O**n the surface, at least, Chen's life before fame seems quite ordinary. Born in Vancouver in December 1986, Chen grew up in a close-knit family with his mother and two sisters (one of whom, Tracy, also has a career as a performer in Hong Kong). His father, Edward Chen, a businessman, moved back to Hong Kong to work, but stayed closely connected to the family. Chen told *Rolling Stone*, an online magazine, in a 2006 interview, "My family has shaped me the most in my life... I believe my mother is the best woman in this world... and she has guided me to be a right sort of person, taught me my values, taught me how to REALLY treat a lady. And then there is my father who has guided me through so many of my career problems."

As a boy growing up in Richmond, B.C., Chen, along with his cousin Oscar, was an avid collector of sports cards and comics—*X-Men*, *Batman*, *Superman*, the standard boy fare.

His sport cards of his time at Imperial High School, along with his comic book collection, were his main interests. "We used to deal with him quite a bit when he was a kid," says Francis Manasse, the store owner. "He was very intelligent and probably one of the best kids I know for being so quiet." His strong personality came as no surprise to all, says Dave Strutt, the store manager. "He was a very charming young fellow. I think the girls always found him charming, too. Any girls around?"

One summer, Chen, who attended R.C. Palmer High School, went to visit his father in Hong Kong—which has long served as the heart of the Chinese language entertainment industry. He was approached by a talent scout about shooting a commercial. He also caught the eye of actor Jackie Chan, who approached Chen about joining him for a movie. At that point, Chen had virtually no experience in the entertainment world. So he enrolled in Jackie Chan's school for young actors, and spent eight months learning martial arts,

**Shen Ouyang Chen (left) and Rachel Ngan**

singing and dancing. Unlike the North American star system, where Jason and Timber Laine are a relative rarity, Hong Kong performers have a long tradition of crossing film genres. They're expected to be able to do everything: sing, dance, act, all over the place. Their images are very carefully sculpted and controlled. At the age of 20, Chen signed a record deal with Emperor Entertainment Group (EEG) and in November 2006, his first CD, *Edison Chen*, hit gold. He was on his way to teen idol dom.

His early hits were sugary Cantonese ballads—songs about shy glances and puppy love he'd sing to hordes of swooning girls. Likewise, his early films were mostly pay-offs with titles like *Go Go Go* and *The Sky Dad*. "Girls have posters of him in their bedrooms and lockers of him on their notebooks at school," says Robert Varco, an American teacher and writer based in China. "I don't ever hear anyone talking about his great movies or songs. They just talk about his looks."



himself as a "teen star." Chen's "Puffy" comes with an astounding list of job titles: film and music star, record producer, fashion entrepreneur and boy-boy style icon.

"Edison emerged, before the outbreak of the sex-phobia scandal, enormous popularity in Hong Kong and among the Chinese-speaking community around the world, including China and Taiwan," says Valerie Chow, a Hong Kong-based entertainment journalist for the South China Morning Post who has followed the scandal closely. "He quickly established himself as a heartthrob with his unusually photogenic face"—a face that won him lucrative endorsement deals with Pepsi, MasterCard, Samsung and others.

"I think an apt U.S. parallel might be some one like Justin Timberlake," says Anne Clinck, a professor of contemporary Asian cinema and popular culture at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst. "He's got marketable boyish appeal and musical talents, some acting chops, tons of commodity potential," and the list goes on. "It was a lot more," he said.



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PROFILE

Chen's Canadian roots gave him a certain cachet, and he had the added advantage of being able to perform in four languages: Cantonese, Mandarin, Japanese and English. This put him on the position to become huge not just in Hong Kong, but throughout China. In the former British colony's post handover era, there is a great deal more overlap in popular culture with the mainland. China has opened up more in recent years, too, with a lot of Westernization coming via Hong Kong, Taiwan and Japan. Though there are still some restrictions as the flow of content into the mainland, says Cuko, they have proven increasingly willing to endorse with the spread of the Internet.

As he became more successful, and able to exert a measure of influence over his career, Chow made use of his North American "outsider" appeal and morphed into a bad-boy hip-hop artist, which he did with more authenticity his style. In 2004, he released his first Cantonese hip-hop album, *Please Don't Tell Me*. Several singles off the record, peppered with English slang, topped the local charts. Last year, he released what he called Chen's first rap album, a Mandarin record called *Allow Me to Introduce Myself*, with tracks produced by Kanye West. In 2006, he was the U.S. hip-hop industry's real of approval when he opened Wu's first show in Kowloon. He also earned some serious credibility when he starred in the crime-thriller effing *Infected*, filmed based on the gothic horror saga of Hong Kong, which Martin Scorsese later remade as the Oscar-winning film *The Departed*.

**T**he mania around Chen ensured that he would become a popular target for the country's tabloid magazines. In the tabloids, he was always paired with one beautiful girl friend or another, as would be a young pop star. He was not, however, universally admired in his adopted country. Chen felt that, as a singer, he was often singled out by hysterically aggressive tabloid reporters. "They choose to target me and say a lot of bulls—t," he said in 2006.

But controversy Chen didn't brought negative attention upon himself. "Tabloids never been the most popular among the press," says Vivienne Chow. "Despite this being a highly Westernized society, women are still regarded as highly important here and tabloids did not always show the kind of manners that the press expected." In 2004, he was involved in a career break in Hong Kong with a couple of teenagers who were taunting him and mimicking his breakdown scenes. One of them threw his breakfast into his face and neck, and he declined to press charges. In May 2007, in a heated restaurant, Chen was charged for kicking and destroying a man that was blocking his driveway and was put on a one-year good behavior bond.

But changes were afoot. By this point, Chen was well on his way toward building his own Jay-Z style hip-hop empire in China. In 2004, having read Malcolm Gladwell's *The Tipping Point*, he co-founded CLOT, an urban lifestyle company that specializes in everything youth culture-related—including urban fashion, a music label, corporate consulting and event production. He even opened his own New York-style pizza joint in Hong Kong and China. Chen said in an interview, there were no other companies fully taking advantage of the booming urban youth market. After reading Gladwell's book, he said, "I realized I had the power to be the first to light the huge fire." CLOT has done design collaborations for "rock bikes" as he calls them with Nike, Pepsi, Levi's and Lacoste, among others.

As for older, his playboy ways had begun to mature and his entrepreneur efforts had earned him some industry respect. "Based on the interview," he told Vivienne Chow in May 2006. "But now I love interviews because... people are actually respecting me more to talk about human instead of, 'What kind of girl do you like?' Long hair? Long hair? Why? Why? Why? You know. They actually ask me about my work now. And I'm appreciating that and maybe it's because I'm actually putting time into my work now. Whereas before I used to just show up." Of course that was before his Apple PowerBook laptop, where he stored his most private memories, were on the fire.



Faye Yee  
Cecilia Cheung  
Selina Chow

Adding to the hype was a mysterious pre-arranged—only still identifying as "Kara," the name of a well-known Marchesa character—who was looking the stranger very mysteriously, actually from a foreign location, and publicly running a hapless police force trying to come into the crash site. The story played out like a mystery-thriller and fans followed along obsessively who would be next? What obvious position would he be engaged in? Was Chen's life really being threatened?

As much as Chen was chased, fans largely blamed the victims involved. Cecilia Cheung, for instance, is married to Hong Kong celebrity named Nicholas Tse, and the scandal sparked panic that their new child might be Chen's. Tse often reportedly called off their anger. "In Hong Kong, as some ways they are very conservative," says Sherry Kwok, a producer of Chinese media and popular

culture at the University of Sydney in Australia. "You think of Hong Kong as Westernized and open, but not in every aspect."

Periodically showing to the public was Times' Celine Cheng, a spokesperson for Hong Kong Disneyland, who has appeared with Chea in a number of very sweet Coreopsis ads. In the latest, the local partners approve of Disney's fair weedy public apology—their said she was "more" in her youth—and her record company EMI's early assurance that the photos were donated, fans were shocked and angered that she donated them by faking an "innocent girl" stance. "In public, she frequently claimed how she was just so pure, naive and a virgin," says Kong. "She was a girl in her twenties who said she had never been kissed, and when she was kissed, she was so uncomfortable. She never had a boy friend. People loved to believe it."

**T**he story occupied the front pages of the local paper for many days. The *Lao Express* Times reported that some papers in Hong Kong estimated a 5% per cent jump in circulation during the scandal. Particularly in mainland China, says Kong, fan culture of any sort is a new thing, and there is a belief that this story should be tellable. "Maybe to young people this culture was not so big," she says. "But now it's such a big thing and a lot of these are high school and even elementary school students."

The biggest celebrities in China have a public status that they don't have in North America, says Kong. On the other hand, they're expected to have a very cool, edgy image, but on the other, fans still expect them to have an unimpeachable moral compass.

The national text was discussed on every center television and current affairs show, with expert panels from Hong Kong, China, Taiwan and beyond assembled to discuss its various social and political ramifications. In Guangzhou, in Guangdong province, the most open city in the country, schools used this case to teach their students about privacy and morality: how to think about pop idols, how to recognize the Internet, and the importance of the social value of privacy. "The schools decided they can't avoid [the scandal]," says Kong, "and so they want to use it almost like a textbook case study to preach their ideas."

As for the Hong Kong police force, just because they couldn't contain it, it didn't stop them from waging a valiant effort. The computer store where Chen had initially taken his broken laptop was raided. Authorities seized computers that contained 1,382 pictures belonging to Chen. In the week after the photos leaked, nine people were arrested, including computer science technician Sun Ho-

CHEN'S AMBITION WAS  
TO BRING URBAN YOUTH  
CULTURE TO CHINA



**Chen and girlfriend  
Wendy Young in  
happier days**

chain, who was charged with accessing a computer with disinformation intent. Also charged was a 24-year-old clerk in Kowloon, who was alleged to have uploaded ripped files containing 99 photos (classified as "indecent" or "obscene") to an online server in Cyprus, and then posted hyperlinks to the files in a Hong Kong forum, where they could be accessed by anyone.

"The Hong Kong police don't have much experience in dealing with this kind of cybercrime," says Shuyu Kong. The day after they announced their victory—that they had rooted out the source and apprehended a perpetrator—a flood of new phone calls came out, accompanied by messages from Kim. "Catch me if

The public generally responded in one of two ways: there were those who believed it was a privacy issue, and that a crackdown was warranted because the photos were stolen property and the public shouldn't be free to pass around prints, explicit pictures (on the other side, however, were those who said it was a freedom-of-speech issue—and that police were selectively applying obscenity laws). In early February, more than 100 people protested the police's handling of the case. They argued that there are thousands of nude photos on the Web, posted without the subject's permission—why not be on these ones just because they involve public personalities?

In any case, in mainland China, the government's early reaction, a crackdown on those who had viewed the photos, proved ineffectual. "It quickly became apparent that this was not going to occur in light of the fact that millions were viewing the photos," said Vance. It was not the first time the Chinese government had made promises it couldn't keep when it came to censoring up the Internet.

net. For example, in December 2007, they announced that all video sharing sites would be under state control. "They had to scale back that plan when they realized that it just wasn't feasible," he said. "Given sites that are routinely blocked in China—such as YouTube and the BBC—can be viewed easily using anonymous proxies." In short, there is no stopping a censorious fix.

**T**heir Editor Chen explained across the fact that, while sex is concerned, the younger generation in China may as well have grown up on a different planet from their parents and grandparents. During the reign of Mao Zedong, all discussion of romantic love and sexuality were prohibited—desired precursors of the self-indulgent bourgeoisie. Men and women wore the same attire and wore and buried. In fact, it was not until the '50s that basic sexual education programs were developed, and even then, discussion limited to the importance of using birth control to limit population growth.

Now, after decades of sexual repression, China is experiencing something of a sexual renaissance. Promiscuous advertising, sex shops, and films with scanty love scenes suddenly proliferate. Prostitution in hotels and karaoke booths is soaring because of the country's one-child policy, which created a generation of men with too few potential female partners.

The new openness brings some undeniable consequences—rates of teen pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases are up. And, of course, when so many depend on the revolution into a handful of years, their lives are bound to be confused and restless as young adults make their portraits. In the midst of these growing pains, perhaps no one was quite prepared for Edison Chen. "It was certainly a huge shock to the society at the time, but I think this has never happened before in the Chinese entertainment world," says Vortmech Chen. Outraged by the Chinese media's wall-to-wall coverage of the scandal, *Shanghai Daily* critic Wu Jinyu notes, "The obsession with low-level news may be nothing new in the West, but their focus for Chinese politicians to reflect, still we follow the amount of curiosity-to-death path that has never been part of mainstream Chinese culture."

The public, meanwhile, had to come to terms with the reality that the pictures didn't download themselves. "The owners' reactions were of disgust, disappointment and shock," says Vance, "but when you persuade adults on their own feelings, they admit that 'in these times' it really is no big deal. The 'shock, disgust and disappointment' that they express is probably assuming that their parents are angry, but my students seem to be more fascinated by the scandal than anything else. The younger generation is much more open to sex than before. In fact, they are curious about it. One of my students explained to me that the reason the photos became so viral was that the viewer felt the photos had the potential to learn more about sexual techniques than her parents were allowed to hear about sex."

Meanwhile, the personal consequences for Chan have been enormous. His Marxist beliefs have come down. His mother apologized to the press, saying she had failed as a parent to instill good morals in her son. Chan was cut from Columbia Pictures's new Hong Kong production film, *Jump, and Sing*. The Daily estimated the scandal could cost Chan HK\$10 million in work and endorsements a year, not to mention the more than HK\$1 million he earned per year in royalties over work, which has to the point included projects such as the Guinness Silver the Third.

Since the Feb. 21 press conference, the question that remains on Chen ever comes back: Mary says no, but Shuya Jiang believes many people were won over by his conviction. "He utilised very sincerely," she says, "and lots of people, at least in the media, sympathise and forgive him." He is unapologetic to his starring production on a new film this summer, a co-production between a Singapore company and an independent U.S. production house, in which he plays an American socialist in Singapore who falls in love with a local woman, played by the actress Shu Qi.

Perhaps he would be best to take his own advice. In 2006, Chen told an online Hong Kong magazine, "If I could go back in my life, I wouldn't change a goddam thing. I am happy with the way my life's events have shaped me, my character and my values. Sometimes you get to go through the tough part to make the extra stride to maturity." If he were, he will thank the past four months up to one giant stride. ■



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2. NUCLEAMINIC ACIDS

# 'THE CART WAS THEIR SKATEBOARD OR BE. I NOTICED HOW FUNNY THEY WERE. THEY WERE HAPPY HOMELESS PEOPLE, AND YOU DON'T SEE IAT ON THE DOWNTOWN EASTSIDE.' —MURRAY SIPLE

## AUNG SAN SUU KYI TELL THE VOTERS TO JUST SAY YES

Burma's pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi was selected last week by the U.S. Senate to receive the Congressional Gold Medal, the nation's highest honor, one awarded to one in a group of humanitarians, scientists and artists that has included George Washington. It's unclear how she will be greeted with the honor—Suu Kyi, a Nobel Peace Prize laureate, has spent 12 of the past 15 years in prison or under house arrest by the Burmese military. Last week, her party, the National League for Democracy (NLD), denounced attempts by the ruling military party to slow an upcoming referendum on Burma's proposed constitution in its throne.

"The authorities are trying every way to make this referendum no free and fair," Aung said. "We would like to encourage anyone who is ready to go to the polling booths and make an 'X' [No] mark without fear." They are expected to select Suu Kyi, said Aung Ding, of the U.S. Congressional Burma. "However, the generals are losing a battle with a single-minded woman."

## MURRAY SIPLE TO HELL IN A HANDBASKET

As an extreme sport filmmaker, Murray Siple once made his living chasing snowboarders. Then a drunk driver took him for a high-speed spin that made him a quadriplegic. Six years later, Siple, 36, has returned to filmmaking with *Carts of Hell*, a remarkable documentary about an underground extreme sport: grocery cart racing. He found a group of homeless men living in the wilds of North Vancouver who survive on "baking" salvaging carts and hoarding them, recycling beer and reducing them for cash.

For fun they weight their carts with rocks and pilot them down steep roads at speeds of up to 70 miles. It turned out to be a trip. "The cart was their skateboard or mountain bike. I noticed how funny they were. They were happy homeless people and you don't see that on the Downtown Eastside." His subjects had their problems. One was hit by a truck. Another had to serve a 30-month jail term. A bit at Toronto's Hot Docs festival, *Carts* is screening for new-film interest. At least where to find the sweetest.

Hollywood knows where to find the sweetest.

## SEAN AVERY STROKE A POSE, THERE'S NOTHING TO IT

Sean Avery, the most hated man in hockey, will spend the NHL off-season as an unpaid intern with *Vogue* magazine, reporting on the fashion world. Picking. One-born just who, in the first round of playoffs, famously forced the league to accept a rule against "discrimination" after he stood wearing his stick in the face of New Jersey Devils goalie Martin Brodeur, whom he later called "f---in'." "The New York declared the league episode didn't 'bring push up over the wall' hole at Augusta while an opponent is putting for me." "I say whatever I think is going to distract them the most," says Avery. After the post-season, the star athlete, who wears black nail polish, even a pair of patent leather Yves Saint Laurent high tops and has been linked to Miley-Kate Olsen and Elsiebeth Cuthbert, will hang up his red-and-blue jersey to work for *Vogue*. He probably won't be writing a magazine questionnaire told ABC News, but like other players, he'll wear photos, get samples, and help with photo shoots. "To get the job, he sort of went through a lot of interviews with Anna Wintour, who shares his disdain for fat people."

## CYNTHY LAUPER STILL SHINING THROUGH LIKE A RAINBOW

Cynthi Lauper was the original *Volcano* and *Smash* performing artist with an eye in her soul, but her hit *True Colors*, recorded in 1986 when she was still full of about 100 lbs, has defined her current career. She was an MTV icon, a member of the community. Lauper says in her midlife New York Times, though she adds, "I'm not really an icon, I'm more a member of the extended family." (The Lauper's *Brave New Girl* book, her first studio album in six years, is now to please the family. The first single, the duet *Older* with David Byrne, was inspired by fellow gay icon Prince's 1992 Super Bowl performance. An intense, misread display "You're always added to that moment," she says. "That's why I sing live.") The former Lauper will launch her second disc *Covers* this week. It's a New York Times best-seller, and many of the songs, which include songs by Van Morrison and Madonna, and features the B-52s, Jonny Lee Miller, and Sarah McLachlan, among others. At 54, she's just what she is to be famous.

## VLADIMIR NABOKOV PERISH—AND THEN PERISH

Before his death in 1957, Vladimir Nabokov, the celebrated author of , demanded that his unfinished final manuscript be destroyed. Since then, *The Original of Laura*—written in pencil on roughly 50 used cards—has languished in a Swiss bank vault. While the author's son and literary executor Dmitri Nabokov agonized over whether to carry out his father's dying request. Meanwhile, the literary world waited with bated breath. Coming to him in a dream, Nabokov has finally put an end to his self-imposed dilemma.

"My father appeared before me and said, 'Write an obituary. You're not an angel, you're not a saint and not a public figure,'" Dmitry, 75, told *Der Spiegel* magazine from his winter home in Lake Baikal. He, the *Original of Laura* author, is a leading literary figure, and that of the author's, misread as he is, as a New York Times best-seller. Gregory Clevins put it "I'd rather not have more Nabokov than less in the world."

## MARCUS BRACHLI BLACK AND WHITE AND IS IT ALL GREY?

Just four months after media giant Rupert Murdoch acquired the *Wall Street Journal* in a whopping \$1.6-billion purchase of Dow Jones & Company, the paper's managing editor has handed in his resignation. Murdoch, 66, who held the top job for less than a year, told staff in an email he'd "come to believe the new owners should have a managing editor of their choosing." He leaves the new management via "inexplicably" involving an acquisition of business or political weapons on the paper. But evidence suggests otherwise.

Under Murdoch, the paper has experienced a somewhat radical change from business to a more political and general interest, and an additional opinion page. Murdoch seems to be remodeling it to compete with anchored the New York Times. Asked last month if the paper would remain in identity "against the strong will of [my] new owner," Murdoch responded in the New York Observer as saying, "As long as I think it will." It appears the master was listening and didn't like what he heard.

## DIVINE PERFORMING ARTS THE FALUN GONG SHOW

Calgary has become a hot spot for the cult of Falun Gong, a Chinese government-banned spiritual movement. This month, before meeting the Dalai Lama, Calgary MP Rob Anders, a Tory, called the Falun Gong "200 per cent a propaganda exercise" comparing them to the 1960s Beatniks under the New York Times. Anders, an academic, says heavy dance troupe—the New York-based Divine Performing Arts, performing in Chinese spectaculars that last the support of both Travel Alberta and Tourism Calgary, allegedly did a call from the Chinese consulate. Due to be "white-hot," the troupe must now find their own sponsor.

The troupe performs a dance drama during the flight of Falun Gong practitioners in China, not something that makes them to Beijing. But the debate has been a publicity boost for them, proving again that the Chinese know how to stage a show—just not how to compete one.

## CHRISTINE HOBSON NOT CUTE-READY FOR HER CLOSE-UP

Looking for the next Rachel McAdams? It could be Christine Hobson. With no screen credits, at 24 the Toronto stage actress found herself on stage with Ellen Barkin in *The Stone Angel*, a novel based on the classic Canadian novel. There's a clear resemblance between the two, who play younger and older versions of Hagar Shipley. But the *Stonemakers* must tell Hobson that her close-up would match Barkin's. "I was doing pieces of plastic to my eyes, getting all blood shot," she says. At Barkin's side, the filmmaker used computer graphics to change the color. Hobson's film debut is coming back. After director Karl Skoglund scored a premiere in Hollywood, Hobson's obvious star quality generated a flurry of offers, the signed with a Hollywood agency where she'll make *Martina* Sotomayor and Viggo Mortensen. "People were happy to meet with me," she recalls. "And I said, 'I'd rather live in Canada and do theatre—I'm a big theatre nut.'"

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STYLING: GARY MAZUR

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# ENDANGERED STUNT MEN

**Computer graphics imagery has supplanted stunt work in many movies, and that's destroying one of the oldest pleasures of the silver screen. BY JAIME J. WEINMAN**

film

The filming of the next James Bond movie, *Quantum of Solace*, hasn't killed any stuntmen yet, but it's keeping coming close: one stuntman accidentally drove a car into a lake, and another went into a coma after Bond's Aston Martin collided with one that wasn't his. Both working stuntmen, that kind of courage may be better than the alternative, because at least *Quantum of Solace* gives them a chance to get hurt.

Most movies today don't, because this is a time when computer graphics imagery (CGI) has supplanted real, dangerous stunt work and car chases in many movies and TV series. Stunts are so risky that the new Indiana Jones adventure, *Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull*, set for a May 25 release, is being sold as a deliberately old-fashioned picture just because it has real stunts. "We're not cheating with CGI," producer Frank Marshall told the *New Haven Register*. "It keeps the B movie feel."

Roberto Lopez, a stunt coordinator for action movies such as *Playboy*, *The Contender*, and who'd stunts on action series like *Baywatch* and *Walker, Texas Ranger*, says that these days, "it's harder to find work. You tell find work, but it's real, meat-and-potatoes stuff, single

little things. The big stuff is almost nonexistent now except in the bigger films." Despite the efforts of James Bond to put stuntmen in the limelight, we may be losing the oldest pleasure of movies—seeing somebody nearly kill himself on film.

Of course, movies and TV haven't exactly abandoned stunts, and they never will. James Logan, who has performed stunts on TV shows like *NCSI* and movies like *Kill Bill*, says "I can't think of a single one" when asked to name a movie that does use stunt performers altogether. But this isn't because movies are continuing with old school stunts; it's because even the most CGI-heavy movies need some real live stunts to make the computer imagery come off properly. Logan goes on that "CGI hides these like *Star Wars* and *Tron* employed hundreds of stuntpeople. Maybe thousands." But the new idea is to take stunts and enhance them with computer effects, or use human stuntpeople as just one of the many things we see in a large special effects course.

That kind of course may keep stuntmen employed, but it doesn't really give them much to do. They're like the men in the first establishing shot of *Casablanca*; the skyline is a fake, a movie painting, but the director

put a real person in a tower for the *Passion* that the rest of the shot was real. That's what happens in the new *Spider-Man* there are real people in there, but they share the scene with the CGI artists, who can take simple stunts and use computer animation to make them look more difficult than they are. The stuntpeople are characters in a computer-generated cartoon.

Movies like the *Spider-Man* trilogy would normally call for elaborate stunts, but most of the action sequences were heavily computer-enhanced. And instead of many photographs creating aerial shots, many of the backgrounds for the fight scenes were created on a computer—which allows for more cinematic camera movements but also makes the characters look as if they're being inside a videogame. Even the *Indiana Jones* series, despite its habit of showing up actors and stuntmen, relied on a 40th anniversary in 2000 by having a computer-generated James Bond defying computer-generated death in *The Death Wish*. Lopez says that while he appreciates the usefulness of CGI to action movies, it's gotten out of hand. "The Matrix used CGI, but took a lot of time with the action, so you could actually see the actors' faces and see them going through the pain. But a movie like

**HAPPISCH PHOTO** In Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom (opposite page); (below) action-movie characters whose stunts are enhanced by computer-graphics imagery



Alas, it tried to do exactly digital (light) scenes, and it looked very bad."

But at least analog budget moviecosts use a lot of stunts, enhanced or otherwise, lower-budget films and TV shows have hardly anything worth noting. The plot for NBC's several of Knight Rider was described by its producers as a "three-hour, lighter, fun, 'action-y'" show of the '80s. But the one thing it didn't bring back was the stunt work. The original Knight Rider wasn't a very impressive-looking show, but it did have one of car chases with stunts that the camera would show KITT talking car and the villain's car badging each other, turning over and exploding. (It

was usually the villain's car that exploded.) The revival benefited from all the extra production values that TV has available today: the set design, camera movements, multi-screen all at far beyond what in '80s shows could offer. And yet the car chases were shared by computers with the original, there were a few shots of actual cars not doing very much, but most of the chases were filled out with computer-generated effects, like perspective shots, and rear projection. Viewers who grew up with the original elected to do the new pilot's inability to give them the fun of seeing two cars actually punching the road. With the technical standards of TV improving every year, stunt work is the only element that is actually worse than it was 20 years ago.

Why did this happen? Start with the obvious: computers can do things real people can't. If the light scenes in the Spider-Man movies we've done traditionally, they would be limited to things that human can do without getting killed (at least not at the time): punching, jumping, falling. Audiences have seen all that before, and what's new, they've seen more special-effects things happen in the comic books those movies (and many, many other current movies) are based on. With CGI, the filmmakers can show things that couldn't possibly be done in real life—and, therefore, haven't been done in other movies. Then there's the matter of insurance: A movie can't do an unaltered, CGI-free stunt unless it's fully insured, and the higher the stunt, the more it costs to insure

the production. "Stunts are a huge insurance company involve themselves in production to try to minimize the risk of financial exposure for the insurer," says John Ashbar, a veteran stuntman and stunt coordinator. That means the insurance is inevitable to shift more of the burden to computers, which need insurance only against unexplained system errors. Most of what the computer would do is to find ways to allow a stunt to

## THE RISKIER THE STUNT THE MORE IT COSTS TO INSURE THE FILM



DANIEL CRAIG in the new Bond film *Quantum of Solace*

look more dangerous than it actually is. But the fun of great stunt performance is that it actually is dangerous. The most fun was from the first Indiana Jones movie involved Bond's stunt double climbing and a spending much and grabbing onto a rope at the other end, while there was some special effects to help involved there, the movie it's a choice is that it is mostly a real person on a real truck. The appeal of a great stunt scene, says Lape, is "the idea that somebody sacrificed to be able to do it." The current CGI heavy methods reduce the cost of making films, and they also reduce the risk of the stunt people with such tricks to dignity, removing

them from post-production (so a stuntman can hang from a wire without worrying that we'll see it). Many stuntpeople appreciate that. Steve Kohn, the president of the U.S. stuntmen's association, told Variety that he films CGI because it provides "new ways to move and hold people, and then go back and take it all out." But what it also provides is a feeling, on the part of many viewers, that there's something going on about what they're seeing onscreen—because unlike the great stunts of yesteryear, it really is phony. "As a stuntperson," says Logan, "I understand the budgetary reduction of filmmaking sometimes require making tough choices between what can be shot practically and what can be generated by a computer, but as an audience member, I don't."

In 1970, the development of CGI enhanced stunts is a bit like the creation of "plaster" (foam) projected on a screen behind the actors), most movies and TV shows began to keep the actors in the studio and track so make it look as if they were driving a car or walking in forest. But while the effect was cheaper and more efficient for the studios, it looked terrible and has become one of the most mocked elements of old movies. While CGI currently looks better than our perspective, it's already starting to look dated, with "yes computer technology providing laughter to the audience. The advantage of doing something for real—whether it's a real person driving a car, or jumping off a real building—is that it never feels dated and always carries the audience's respect. Logic suggests a to dancing, which never goes out of style." "You take movies that have long lived like *The West Side Story*, or *Forrest Gump* and so on, they're still alive today because you can't take that stuff." "The CGI effects of today will look bad in a few years, it good stunt, like good dancing, never date."

Certainly the long life of the Indiana Jones movies, alongside *The Road* and *Samurai* and other movie-franchise that the movies with the best stunts are often the ones that hold up the longest. But that doesn't mean that studios will leave from that, even India Jones fans have expressed fear, on the basis of the trailer, that the filmmakers may not keep their promise to cut down on CGI. Of course, most people would want to be able to find what James Logan is when that "big action requires stunt performance. Stunt performance will always exist. That's it. Period. The party is in." But even if they exist, we may no longer be able to enjoy watching the stunts with such and break lines. And a movie or TV show can't go to watch unless someone is able to make it. ■



AFTER PRESIDENT BUSH appointed Petraeus, he prevailed to talk about him as if he were a hero rather than an appointee

## What would General Petraeus do?

Your 15 minutes are up, Jack Bauer—there's a brand-new conservative superhero in town

BY JAMES W. HENNING: Gen. David Petraeus, commander of multinational forces in Iraq, was just nominated by President George W. Bush to run U.S. Central Command. But so hear conservatives talk about him, you'd think he runs the whole world. When John McCain was asked whether he would move troops from Iraq to Afghanistan, he replied: "I would not do that unless Gen. Petraeus said that he felt that the situation called for that," though Iraq commanders don't control Afghanistan deployments. Involving Petraeus, whose leadership is credited with helping to reduce the level of violence in Iraq, has become a staple for any conservative politician or journalist. Ralph Peters, a columnist for Rupert Murdoch's *New York Post*, wrote for many conservatives when he informed his readers that Petraeus's "intelligence, drive, devotion to service and negotiating skills make the Iraqis, going looking for a general as perfect." Most now, Jack Bauer, there's a new conservative superhero in town. But this one is a real person.

When President Bush appointed Petraeus (with unanimous Senate approval) to lead the "surge" of U.S. troops into Iraq in 2007, it was a mixed election: the President-elect's Republican challenger, the army officer-turned-military analyst on counterinsurgency. But Bush then prevailed to talk about Petraeus as if he were a hero rather than an appointee, saying that troop levels in Iraq would be decided by "Gen. Petraeus's recommendations."

Conservative journalists followed Bush's lead in building up Petraeus into something more than just another general: at Murdoch's influential magazine *The Weekly Standard*, Bill Peters and other readers call Petraeus's job to be Bush's "Ulysses Grant," while Rich

Lowery, editor in chief of the *National Review*, recently told Murdoch that Petraeus "convinced and inspired me to a degree that has pulled Iraq back from the brink of disaster." Support of Petraeus became even stronger after the *Wall Street Journal* announced an audit asking if General Petraeus would run out to be "General Patton II," David Wiegman, an editor at *American Enterprise*, says that the angry reaction (including a congressional resolution condemning *American Enterprise's* coverage) "gave me a boost in my confidence." By the end of 2007, Fox News' Bill O'Reilly once called Petraeus by awarding him an award of the Year of the Year to Petraeus. A man who might once have been scorned as an appointee was now a conservative hero.

The advantage of the tactic was that it focused attention on Petraeus's judgments, which might be trusted, instead of Bush's judgments, which almost nobody trusts. MDC's Tim Borenstein reported that in 2007, several Republican congressmen told Bush that news about Iraq "cannot come from the White House or even you, Mr. President. It has to come from Gen. Petraeus." Though generals carry out the President's chosen policies, it sounds comforting to talk about Iraq war policy as though Bush isn't really in charge. "Bush has lost credibility as a spokesman for the war," Lowery explains, "so

he tries to lean on Petraeus as the most palatable emblem of the war."

Some journalists have taken this to the next level: instead of talking about Petraeus as though he were president, they promote a world where he is president. The conservative newspaper the *New York Sun* published a "Petraeus for President" editorial. William Kristol, editor of *The Weekly Standard* and now a *New York Times* columnist, once wrote that he suggested that Petraeus should start as vice president. Just as Joseph R. Biden Jr. was named as vice president, Petraeus is running as conservative fantasy figure of what Bush should have been.

Petraeus still isn't exactly a star outside conservative media circles, the polling firm *Business Reports* found in 2007 that only 24 percent of Americans had a favorable opinion of him while over 40 percent had no opinion about him at all. And despite the attempt to focus attention on Petraeus and away from Bush, U.S. public opinion for with dwindling Iraqis remains as low as ever. But conservative journalists aren't hoping that Petraeus campaign may win the war's single around, and maybe even Jeffrey Bell, another editor at *The Weekly Standard*, got in a good word earlier this year for Bush as "the man who had the courage and good sense to send Petraeus to Iraq." If Petraeus ever gains national cult status, maybe some of this might rub off on George W. Bush. ■



### STOP THE PRESSSES... SHITE MY FOREHEAD

"When I wrote in *Saturday's* story about HBO that George Washington stepped down from the presidency after serving only one term, it was just a short, blunt error. This sent me letters you're not kidding. Hardly and importantly, the comment it is pointed out to you." L.A. Times critic Mary McNamara writing her new column in the newspaper's blog after her view was delayed by emails from readers pointing out that Washington served two terms





NO MORE KITT GATT and Rade Serbedjic in *Fugitive Pieces*, the book's author, Anne Michaels, doesn't seem involved about the rest

## But then why did they have to die?

**Robert Lantos's mother helped him decide 'Fugitive Pieces' needed a happy ending**

BY BRIAN K. JOHNSON • Robert Lantos can recount the exact moment when he knew something was wrong with *Fugitive Pieces*, the movie he'd produced based on Anne Michaels's 1996 novel about a Holocaust survivor. It was when the film premiered at the opening night gala of the Toronto International Film Festival last fall. Lantos had taken his 50-year-old mother, herself a Holocaust survivor, to that premiere. "At the end of the screening," he recalls, "she looked at me and said, 'The film's very good. But why did they have to die?'" She was referring to a sudden accident that kills off the protagonist and his lover at the end of the film. "I didn't have a straight answer," says Lantos. "I was just my mother's opinion that this was a mistake," says Lantos, who became convinced his movie needed a happier ending.

I don't know if it's possible to spoil a film by giving away its ending, but in *Fugitive Pieces*, consider that a spoiler alert. In the original cast of *Fugitive Pieces*, after spending the whole movie terrified by his job as an orphaned child of the Holocaust, Jakob (Stephen Dillane) finds true love and some relief from his ghosts, only to be wiped out, along with his pregnant lover, by a random accident—they are hit by a truck in the final scene. That event is involved at the very beginning of Michaels's novel. But in the new version of the film, which opens in theaters across the country this week, the accident has been cut out from the ending, and the survivor simply fades out on an offhanded note of love and hope.

It's not unusual for a filmmaker to trim a movie between its festival premiere and its commercial release. But there's no precedent, at least in Canadian cinema, for the kind

of radical surgery performed on *Fugitive Pieces*. The decision was made jointly by Lantos and director Jeremy Podeswa. Like his producer, Podeswa is a child of a Holocaust survivor, and it's obvious that both men are so emotionally invested in the film their decision wasn't just a simple attempt to make it more palatable. "That was something we discussed even at the script stage," Podeswa told me last week in a conference call with Anne Michaels. "Although we knew it would be difficult for the audience, we stuck to our guns." But audiences found the ending so "distressing," he said, they had to rethink it. As for Michaels, she doesn't sound opposed about the new, but accepts it. "The change in controversy is fine, of course," she says. "But a film is a film and a book is a book. Jacob had to make the decision he had to make and I respect him."

The 11th hour attempt to make *Fugitive Pieces* more audience-friendly speaks to the chronic difficulty filmmakers have in turning popular Canadian novels into movies people want to see. This month marks the release of no fewer than three films based on Canadian fiction—the other two being *Emotional Arithmetic* and *The Secret Angel*. What makes all these items hard to adapt is that they're rife with internal monologues, and they're about the elusive nature of memory.

That's especially true of *Fugitive Pieces* and *Emotional Arithmetic*—another dislocated drama of Holocaust survivors. In both cases, the swiveling plot threatens to overwhelm what's happening onscreen, so the power that director Lantos spends on his own predicament with the opening line, as Jakob studies to the child glimpsed horrors of his childhood. "I did not witness the most important event of my life. My deepest story must be told by a third person, from behind a wall."

*Emotional Arithmetic*, based on the 1990 novel by Matt Cohen, underwent a long, tortuous journey. And once again, the ending was controversial. Two of the film's stars, Susan Sarandon and Matt Damon, successfully lobbied the director to make it less bleak. "Jon Spedon saved his character from suicide—although in this case, the brighter ending is more faithful to the novel."

Canadian filmmakers are less apt to make dark dramas that torment viewers with conflicting messages. And with David Cronenberg and Anne Egloff, Lantos has produced a number of them. But *Fugitive Pieces*, he says, "is a story of love and survival and hope, and we didn't want to distort that. We don't need to worship the book." Yet the film remains solemnly reverent to its source, exhibiting the novel's poetry and the ghosts that haunt it with elegiac, self-conscious beauty. A new ending, no matter how happy, could do nothing to erase that. ■



WE'RE STALKING... POSH'S JEANS.

Victoria's children is learning that the fashion business is as tough as it looks. The ex-sister girl had to slash prices on her old denim line due to weak sales. Last month, the upscale Los Angeles boutique Kithron, complaining that Barlowe refused to come to the store to meet customers, the jeans line initially retailed at \$290, but now cost \$70 in discount stores. Industry insiders have complained the brand is made in China from cheap fabrics.



SOME PARENTS become so absorbed of having their only child as company, they don't want to share the child with school friends

## The problem with only children

**Some of them see marriage as a three-person unit where they have equal standing**

BY JULIA MCNEIL • Psychologist Carl Pickhardt got the idea to write his new book, *The Future of Your Only Child*, after noticing a disproportionate number of only children in his private practice in Texas. It's not that only children are "more riddled with problems," he says. "Quite the contrary. They have very conservative parents, who, he's conditioned, are just more open and willing to get their kid in therapy." "These are parents who try very, very hard to do the best by their child."

But be careful, he warns parents. "Liking a child" "We only want the best for you" can be a coded message for "We really want the best from you." Personal ambition to raise a trophy child, he says, "places unbearable performance pressure on an only child who may finally explode and erupt in a tantrum." "They're doing this to me! I'm not loving me to death. My life doesn't belong to me."

Only children who get their parents' undivided attention typically develop strong self-worth and confidence, but sometimes a double-edged sword, writes Pickhardt. As one child confided, "Because my mother's attention was always on me, I could never find anything. I learned to become content I had and possessed it."

"Don't constantly scrutinize your child," Pickhardt writes. "[I]f he or she has been on the phone too long or stayed up past his bedtime, remind your child he doesn't need you every now and then. Give your Only a sense of journey and his own identity."

And parents should protect their own privacy, counsels Pickhardt. Frequently, young adults get confused by the meaning of marriage, he says. "A young adult child will describe marriage as a three-person unit where they have equal standing." For instance, "being

one of us" often shows when parents have each other for company, can seem unfair to an only child who must share those precious sleeping arrangements. "Disagree with only children and it's very, very painful. Their world is literally torn apart."

Articulate to the child that "there's a marriage going on here and you are not party to that marriage. We're dedicated to your care but we're also dedicated to the privacy of our relationship. Sometimes parents of only children have a hard time with that. They feel that everything they do should include the child."

Inborn only children of mental problems, he suggests, "You don't have to use therapy and you don't have to go through a difficult time and we may be getting one-sided, and it's not about you, it's about us."

Then there's the risk that some parents become "enmeshed" with their only child as company, they don't want to share the child with school friends. "A parent might say, 'The three of us can have more fun just by ourselves.'"

"Refrain from acting socially passive," he writes. Only children need peer interaction. They are deprived of the benefit of a sibling's "push and shove and rough and tumble."

Only children learn to share, take turns, play to entertain, and stand up for themselves, says Pickhardt. Encourage the conversation.



MOST IMPROVED PARIS HILTON

The celebrante has apologized after telling a Las Vegas radio station that Kim Kardashian's behind reminds her of "coarse cheese inside a big trash bag." Hilton immediately realized she'd gone too far and called Kardashian, a reality TV personality and Hilton's former BFF, to see her. "Kim's back," she told reporters. Kim, meanwhile, took the high road: "I've given the media the effort to say she's sorry."



READERS HAVE WRITTEN to Steyn to ask: doesn't he wish the Islamic bird would just, as in the Robert Frost poem, fly away?

# Chirpiness that'll be the death of us

If you no longer know what you stand for, how can you know what you stand against?



MARK STEYN

A couple of years ago, an Austrian reader wrote to say he was beginning to feel as Robert Frost did in "A Minor Bird":  
*I have waited a bird would fly away  
And saying by my house all day*

My correspondent's interestingly deepening bird was Islam. He was fed up waking every morning and reading of the latest offence taken by the more visible Muslims—al-Qaeda, bin Laden, the 9/11 attacks—when he was greeted by a Muslim protest outside Westminster Cathedral demanding the exorcism of the Pope. It was organized by a fellow called Angus Chesham, who argued that "wherever men's the message of Muhammad is going to be subject to capital punishment." But then again it might have been some other provocative remedy: say, the chocolate used on the top of a Burger King desert (canon that an agnostic/catholic couple had chosen to do a wedding in the Arabic style for "Allah" the offending word) or was subsequently endorsed? It's not hard to expect to take offence, it's no difficult to find it. As our President Bush said on his second day in office: "It's not the Canadians, it's the cartoons."

Which would make a great bumper sticker. It encapsulates perfectly not only the inability of the perpetually aggrieved to move on, make peace in millennium art, but also the error lack of proportion.

Anyway, my New York Times headline (and Canadian last-critics) America Alone: The End Of The World As We Know It is released in paperback about the Dominion's bookstores this week, and, if it were exempt in

Michigan it would generate two "harmful rights" prosecutions, the publisher edition should be good for a full-blown case trial followed by a last cigarette and firing squad—although, this being Canada, there'll be no last cigarette. To mark the paperback launch, I'll be in Toronto at the Bay and Black launch of Indigo on Wednesday May 7 with my old pal Heather Bennett. To be done along if you're interested in hearing what the book's about, as if you're an Ontario "Human Rights" commissioner will yield like to arrest me.) In any event, with a new round of personal interviews leaving, several readers write to ask if I ever felt like an Australian pal: don't you wish the Islamic bird would just fly away? Wouldn't it be nice not to be upon your neck as this issue 347?

I'm using "Up to you" as a metaphorical ally, but a lot of things are metaphorical. Nations, Muhammad, Islam, the unemployed Toronto town whose where signs for the "space" of Michael's columnist Frank Jank and others of Muslim moderate are punished by death, says or all of this suggests "Behind Bars" And make a nice video and post on YouTube. There is a nice warning Mr. Khan would fly away and not stay by our house all day. He's here no way, and anyone who advocated, say, his deportation would find himself assailed by moderate reasonable Canadians horrified at such a betrayal of our multicultural values.

Which is the point. For as Robert Frost's poem continues:  
*The hawk must partly have been in me  
The bird was not to blame for his fly  
And of course there may be something wrong  
In wanting to alter any thing  
In the case of an imbedded West at night,*

the bird is wholly in us. After Sept. 11, 2001, many agnostic progressives looked at America and at other nations with the Muslim world and argued that we need to ask ourselves: why do they hate us? As Brian Davis, a Michigan blogger, put it, a more relevant question is: why do we hate us? After all, if all our institutions, from grade school to public broadcasting to Hollywood movies to Canadian "human rights" commissions, operate from the basic assumption that Western civilization is the best of nations, imperialism, aggression, exploitation and all the other ills of the world, why be surprised that the rest of humanity takes us as our worst?

"Multiculturalism" is a multicultural phenomenon. It exists only as a Western ideal, and we don't believe in it, not really. Most people, given the choice, want to live in an advanced Western society. They're even apparently P.C. for not being too ready to accept others as "developing nations" the phrase used in "developing nations" in Pakistan, the UK and has more flow "them" to enjoy the benefits of Ontario health care. Would it have killed Mr. Martin to express mild dislike, as the idea of your taxes paying for the treatment of a man whose Canadian citizenship is no more than a flag of convenience that unfortunately that's the law, blah, blah, blah? Apparently he hated, his refusal to provide it as a wholehearted demonstration of the virtues of a multicultural state so boundlessly tolerant it even lets you choose what side of the Afghan war you're on: when the draft card arrives, just check "home state" or "army" according to taste. We'll still be congratulating our action on our boundless tolerance even as the firms of intolerance continue as.

Which is quite likely? That the Ontario Human Rights Commission will investigate Martin Muhammad Khan for his explicit statement to murder? Or that it will rebuke

particular intolerance, built on the rule of law, property rights, and the ethics of speech? Or will we throw more say to that last Western, last apologist? Say it loud, I'm Dutch and proud! We're late, we're in, and I'm sorry about that!

If you no longer know what you stand for, how can you know what you stand against? That's why Swedish cabinet ministers say we should be nice to Muslims now so that when they're in the majority they'll be nice to us, and Dutch cabinet ministers say they'll have no objection to share as long as a majority of Dutch electors voted for it, and Canadian prime ministers say things like: "I believe that once you are a Canadian citizen, you have the right to your own views and to disagree."

That was Paul Martin, and he was reacting to the news that the youngest Shadrach boy and his twin had landed a President to rescue their OHP needs. Junior had been paralysed in the shooting with Palestinian bullets that killed his dad, the highest-ranking Canadian in al-Qaeda (at least until Osama's Canadian passport turns up in the back of the case). And, not forgetting a prison hospital in Pakistan, the kid and his mom flew "home" to enjoy the benefits of Ontario health care. Would it have killed Mr. Martin to express mild dislike, as the idea of your taxes paying for the treatment of a man whose Canadian citizenship is no more than a flag of convenience that unfortunately that's the law, blah, blah, blah? Apparently he hated, his refusal to provide it as a wholehearted demonstration of the virtues of a multicultural state so boundlessly tolerant it even lets you choose what side of the Afghan war you're on: when the draft card arrives, just check "home state" or "army" according to taste. We'll still be congratulating our action on our boundless tolerance even as the firms of intolerance continue as.

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Maclean for being so "naive" and "Islamophobic" as to question the charge? Well, they've already done that, and I should mention say that last Western, last apologist? Say it loud, I'm Dutch and proud! We're late, we're in, and I'm sorry about that!

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LAST WEEK (PERIOD ON LIST)	

to fly the coop is the one that's been chopping away with the Song of Civilizational Suicide for generations now. To quote another landmark of anthropological verity: "Spread your wings and fly away!"



## He was part of an effort to repopulate the wild, but it was too easy to find food near human settlements

**J**J3, a European brown bear, was born in the mountains of Italy's Trentino region in January 2006. He was named after the first letter of the names of his mother, Jurka, and father, Joss, brown bears from Slovenia translocated to Italy as part of a program to bolster a local wild bear population that had dwindled to three older males. JJ3 had two older brothers from the first bear that Jurka and Joss produced in 2004, JJ1 and JJ2, and a sister and brother from the litter after which he was born two years later.

JJ3 grew up as part of a Trentino bear population that had grown to number more than 20. How ever, according to Italian records, his mother, Jurka, was deemed "problematic," showing little fear of humans and often venturing into residential areas in search of food. Between 2003 and 2007, when she was captured and placed in a special enclosure, emergency teams had to respond to more than 80 "critical situations" involving her. It was behavior that pointed on to her fate.

In July 2008, JJ3, still under control, was signed on the other side of the Italian border in the canton of Graubünden in Switzerland, a country where bears had been hunted nearly to extinction throughout the 19th century, with the last one being killed in 1906. "Without a green corridor connecting Italy to Switzerland, it was really only a matter of time before one of the offspring would find its way across the border," said Joanna Kichensmeier, a large carnivore expert with the World Wildlife Foundation, at the time. But while conservationists were delighted that the species was again roaming areas where it had once thrived, farmers were less happy. Like his mother, JJ3, dubbed *Lupo* ("wolf") in the local Swiss dialect, showed no fear of humans, and killed more than a dozen sheep and a calf before disappearing in September of that year (some believe he may have been killed by poachers).

On May 20, 2006, JJ1's other older brother, JJ1, who came to be dubbed *Brown*, was sighted in the Karawanken Alps in southern Germany—where the last time a wild bear had been seen was in 1895. Like *Lupo*, *Brown* showed little fear of humans and had a great appetite for farm animals. In June, the Bavarian government narrowly defeated him a "grave danger to people," but the bear managed to elude an expert team of Finnish trackers with specially trained dogs brought in to capture him. Finally, the state government issued a general order, and *Brown* was shot by hunters at 4:50 a.m. on Monday, June 26, 2006, near the town of Zell.

JJ3 spent the first year of his life in Italy. But in the late spring of 2007, he left his mother, just shortly before Jurka was captured. In the summer, he and a half-brother, MJ4, were spotted in Seltzer land, also in Graubünden's canton. The two erratically harassed flocks of sheep on Alpine meadows and mated bullstop beehives, leading to calls from hunters and farmers that the animals be killed. But Georg Jost, the head of Graubünden's hunting and fisheries agency, said "At the moment they are just doing what is natural."

That soon changed. MJ4, who had a difficult mother, proved to be a shy animal that sneaked close to humans (he consumed "meat products," in the words of one Swiss press release). But JJ3 followed his brothers' footsteps, teaching his flock around individual houses and villages and killing livestock, mostly sheep, but, in one instance, a llama. On Aug. 12, 2007, he was captured and fitted with a tracking system, which officials hoped would prevent further incidents. But JJ3 continued his killing spree, and extended his growing men. On Oct. 22, he was, according to Swiss records, "scarcely expelled" from the area around the town of Leventina. JJ3 had been "showing the behavior it had learnt from its mother Jurka to search for food in the village."

Winter interrupted his activities in early November, shortly after a failed attempt to capture him. JJ3 established a hibernation spot at an altitude of 1,720 upon a south-facing hillside between the villages of Breno and Abietes. But after emerging from his sleep around Feb. 20, he again began frequenting settlements, although on March 21 he also managed to kill a stag that may have been lost or sick. By that time, JJ3's behavior had become increasingly worrisome to Swiss authorities. "He was getting bolder and bolder, and even let people observe him," said Stefan Engler, head of Graubünden's department of public works, traffic and forests. Finally, officials said, they were left with no choice but to classify JJ3 as a risk, and dispatch sharpshooters to kill him. "We saw no other way to influence the behaviour of the bear," said Engler.

Thanks to its tracking device, the hunter had no difficulty locating him. JJ3 was killed on the evening of Monday, April 14—"an incredibly wet and low ceiling," says Rolfhard Schenker, Graubünden's chief hunting inspector. A roadside inn is now at work on JJ3's body. His brother, *Brown*, who was the first wild bear to be seen in Germany in 170 years, is already on display in a glass case in Munich at the Museum of Man and Nature. **BY PETER KOPIVILAM**



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